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THE
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LANDING OF THE PILGRIMS IN 1620

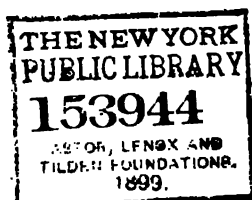
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KING PHILIP'S WAR.

CONTAINING MANY DESCRIPTIVE
ANECDOTES AND INCIDENTS

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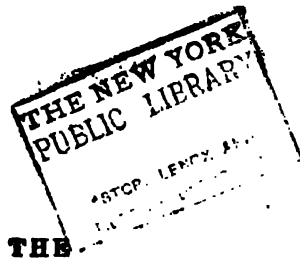
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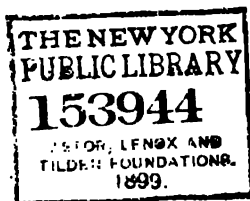


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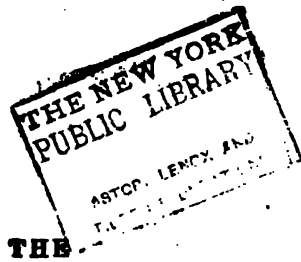


BOOK OF BATTLES.



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BOOK OF BATTLES.



The above cut is designed to give a view of the ship which bore Columbus to the New World, as it is approaching San Salvador, on the evening of October 11, 1492. He afterwards discovered Cuba and Hayti or Hispaniola, and still later Jamaica; and on his third voyage, South America. He died in 1506 Cabot reached America in 1497; and Pinçon in 1499.

P R E F A C E .

THE design of this work is to present to the reader a succinct and authentic account of all the battles fought in this country, from the landing of our Pilgrim Fathers to the present time.

Particular pains has been taken to avoid all uninteresting detail, and to present at once to the mind, not a mass of dry official documents, but a narrative description of those stirring events which constitute the subject-matter of the work.

The arrangement of the book includes five distinct periods. The first contains the frequent engagements of our early fathers with their savage foes. The second narrates the battles of the American Revolution. The third describes the battles fought with the French, Tripolitans, and Algerines. The fourth exhibits the battles of the war of 1812 with Great Britain. The fifth details the several battles in the late war with Mexico under Generals Taylor and Scott, from the beginning of hostilities to the conquest of the city and country. Each period is introduced by a brief history of the causes which led to the wars, together with a biographical notice of those who were distinguished actors in the events narrated.

In the plan and subject of this book we claim to occupy a new field, not being aware of the existence of any similar work in the literature of the country.

In the matter of the work we do not claim a large share of originality, except so far as concerns its design and arrangement.

In its subject, *sparsa colliget* has been our motto, and we have collected and brought together into a compact form facts and details that were scattered abroad over the pages of many voluminous and elaborate works.

To the young in particular we trust this book will be found of incalculable benefit, as by its extreme interest it will, doubtless, not only inspire and nourish the love of reading, but will lead the mind onward to seek from other sources a more extensive knowledge of the history and probable destiny of our growing country; and thus will it contribute to the formation of good character, by impairing the relish which too many have for that flashy kind of literature, the only tendency of which is to poison and corrupt the mind.

With these remarks we conclude the Preface, and commend the work to the charitable consideration of a discriminating public; and if the sequel shall show that we have gained the award of having even but feebly assisted to a better understanding of those trying events which led to the establishment of the religious and civil liberties of our beloved country, it is all the honor we ask.

H. B. S.

WALTHAM, October 20, 1852.

FIRST PERIOD.

INCLUDING THE DISCOVERY OF AMERICA BY COLUMBUS, — THE
LANDING OF THE PILGRIMS, AND THEIR CONFLICTS WITH THE
INDIANS, — BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES, — INCIDENTS, &c.

I.

DISCOVERY OF AMERICA.

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS, the first European who discovered the Western Continent, was a native of Genoa, and was bred to navigation. By his knowledge of the form of the earth, and of geography and astronomy, and by some pieces of carved wood and a canoe, driven on shore by westerly winds, he was led to believe that there must be a continent on the west of the Atlantic to balance the vast tract of land on the east; and he imagined that by sailing westward he might find a shorter course to China and the East Indies, than by travelling eastward. He therefore applied to the government of Genoa for assistance to enable him to undertake a voyage of discovery. He did not succeed. He then applied to Portugal, but with no better success. He was thought, as men of genius are often thought, a visionary projector.

Disappointed in these applications, and despairing of assistance from Henry the Seventh of England, to whom he had sent his brother Bartholomew, but who, being captured, did not reach England for several years, Columbus next laid his plans before Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain.

Ferdinand was long deaf to his application; but through the favor of Isabella, who listened to his plans, a treaty was made with him. The queen sold her jewels and defrayed the expense of his outfit and voyage. His fleet consisted of the *Santa Maria*, *Pinta*, and *Niña*, with ninety men, victualled for a year. The whole expense was the small sum of about sixteen thousand dollars. —

Columbus, when he sailed, expected to land in India; but Providence was opening his way to an unknown world. He first touched at the Canaries, and thence stretched westward into seas as yet unexplored.

After sailing about two months, the crew became anxious and discontented. They were appalled at the extent of their voyage, and despaired of accomplishing the purposes for which it was undertaken. Columbus, however, in the midst of mutiny, and while every heart around him sunk under the most gloomy apprehensions, remained firm and inflexible. He contrived to pacify the spirit of rebellion, by promising to return, if land should not be discovered within three days.

The night of the 11th of October, 1492, was memorable to Columbus, and to the world. Convinced from appearances that land was near, he ordered the sails furled, and a watch set. No eye, however, was shut. All on board was suspense and sleepless expectation.

About midnight, the cry of *Land! land!* was heard on board the Pinta. The morning came — October 12, O. S. — and realized their anticipations. The land was distinctly in view. The occasion demanded an acknowledgment to Him who had so auspiciously guided their way. All therefore bowed in humble gratitude, and joined in a hymn of thanks to God.

II.

LANDING OF COLUMBUS.

COLUMBUS, in a rich dress, and with a drawn sword, soon after landed with his men, with whom, having kneeled and kissed the ground with tears of joy, he took formal possession of the island, in the name of Queen Isabella, his patron. On landing, the Spaniards were surprised to find a race of people quite unlike any that they had ever seen before. They were of a dusky, copper color, naked, beardless, with long black hair, floating on their shoulders, or bound in tresses round their heads. The natives were still more surprised at the sight of the Spaniards, whom they considered as the children of the sun, their idol. The ships they looked upon as animals, with eyes of lightning and voices of thunder.

Having spent some time in examining the country, and in an amicable traffic with the natives, Columbus set sail on his

return. He was overtaken by a storm, which had nearly proved fatal. During the storm Columbus hastily inclosed in a cake of wax a short account of his voyage and discovery, which he put into a tight cask, and threw it into the sea. This he did, hoping that, if he perished, it might fall into the hands of some navigator, or be cast ashore, and thus the knowledge of his discovery be preserved to the world. But the storm abated, and he arrived safe in Spain, March 15, 1493.

For this discovery, it being the first, and having laid the foundation for all the subsequent discoveries in America, Columbus was doubtless entitled to the honor of giving a name to the New World. But he was robbed of it by the address of Americus Vespucius. This adventurer was a Florentine who sailed to the New World in 1499, with one Alonzo Ojeda, a gallant and active officer, who had accompanied Columbus in his first voyage. On his return, he published so flattering an account of his voyage, that his name was given to the continent, with manifest injustice to Columbus.

After this, Columbus made several other voyages, but did not discover the *continent of America* until August 1, 1498, during his *third* voyage, at which time he made the land now called Terra Firma, in South America.

During this voyage Columbus was destined to experience severe afflictions. After his departure from Spain, having been appointed governor of the New World, his enemies, by false representations, persuaded the king to appoint another in his place. At the same time the king was induced to give orders that Columbus should be seized and sent to Spain. This order was executed with rigid severity, and the heroic Columbus returned to Spain in irons!

On his arrival, he was set at liberty by the king, but he never recovered his authority. Soon after a fourth voyage which he made, finding Isabella, his patroness, dead, and himself neglected, he sunk beneath his misfortunes and infirmities, and died, May 20, 1506, in the fifty-ninth year of his age.

III.

OUR PURITAN FATHERS.—CAUSES OF EMIGRATION, &c.

MASSACHUSETTS, the oldest of the New England States, and the first in population and resources, was first permanently set-

bled by Europeans at Plymouth, on the 22d of December, 1620. There is good reason to believe that the first civilized people who visited the territory now comprised within the limits of the State were the Norwegians, who emigrated from Iceland, and formed a settlement on the coast of Greenland in A. D. 986. From this place, in A. D. 1000, a ship, with a crew of thirty-five men, proceeded southward on a voyage of discovery. From the account of their voyage, which is still preserved, it appears highly probable that they sailed as far south as Narraganset Bay, near the head of which it is supposed they passed the winter. It also appears, that after this period they made other voyages along the coast, and even attempted settlements, of the fate of which we have no information.

About the period of the commencement of the seventeenth century, the English sovereigns maintained a despotic power over the consciences of their subjects. All who dissented from the national creed established by law were persecuted with great rigor. The avowed maxim in that age, adopted by religious as well as political rulers, was, that uniformity in religion was essential to the peace of society; and that it was, therefore, the right and duty of every sovereign to maintain it in his dominions, by the force of law and punishment.

In 1602, a number of religious people in the North of England, called *Puritans*, (so called from their efforts to preserve purity in Divine worship,) were so persecuted on account of their religious sentiments, that they were compelled to take measures to find refuge in a foreign land. A little band of these brethren entered into a solemn covenant with each other "to walk with God and one another, in the enjoyment of the ordinances of God, according to the primitive pattern," whatever it might cost them. A number of ministers entered into this association, among whom was Mr. Robinson, a man of eminent piety and learning.

Mr. Robinson, and as many of his congregation as found it in their power, left England in the years 1607 and 1608, and settled in Amsterdam, in Holland, whence, in 1609, they removed to Leyden. Here they lived in great friendship among themselves and their neighbors, until they removed to New England. As early as 1617, Mr. Robinson's people meditated a removal to America. The reasons of their removal were, to preserve the morals of their youth, which were in danger of being corrupted by the dissolute manners of their neighbors, the Dutch;

the desire of perpetuating a Church which they believed to be constituted after the simple and pure model of the primitive Church of Christ; and a zeal to propagate the Gospel in the regions of the New World.

These reasons having been duly considered by the Church, after seeking Divine direction by humiliation and prayer, they agreed to come over to America, and settle in a distinct body, under the general government of Virginia. They also agreed that their pastor, Mr. Robinson, should remain with the greater part of the Church, whether they chose to remain at Leyden, or to come over to America. In 1617 they sent Mr. Robert Cushman and Mr. John Carver to England, to treat with the Virginia Company, and ascertain whether the king would grant them liberty of conscience, if they removed to their territory. The Virginia Company were very desirous to have them settle within the limits of their patent; the king, however, would grant no public recognition of religious liberty, but promised that, if they behaved peaceably, he would not molest them on account of their religious sentiments. In February, 1619, Mr. Cushman and Mr. Bradford were sent to England, where, after a long attendance, they obtained of the Virginia Company a patent of the northern parts of Virginia. This patent was taken out in the name of John Wincob, a religious gentleman in the family of the Countess of Lincoln, who intended to accompany them, but was providentially detained. This patent, therefore, was never used, but carried, however, to Leyden, with proposals from Mr. Weston, and several other respectable merchants and friends, for their consideration, with a request that immediate preparations should be made for their voyage.

After a day of solemn prayer, in accordance with their custom previous to their engaging in important concerns, the congregation of Mr. Robinson concluded to remove to America. As it was not convenient for all of them to go at once, it was agreed that part of their number should go and make preparation for the rest. After due consultation, it was determined that Mr. Robinson and the greater part of the congregation should remain at Leyden. The other part, with Mr. Brewster for their elder and teacher, agreed to be the first adventurers. A small ship, of about sixty tons, called the *Speedwell*, was now purchased and fitted out in Holland; another of about one hundred and eighty tons, called the *Mayflower*, was hired at Lon-

don. "All other matters being prepared, a large concourse of friends from Amsterdam and Leyden accompanied the adventurers to the ship, which lay at Delft Haven; and the night preceding their embarkation was spent in tearful prayers, and in the most tender and friendly intercourse. The next day a fair wind invited their departure. The parting scene is more easily felt than described. Their mutual good wishes, their affectionate and cordial embraces, and other endearing expressions of Christian love and friendship, drew tears even from the strangers who beheld the scene. When the time arrived that they must part, they all, with their beloved pastor, fell on their knees, and with eyes, and hands, and hearts lifted to Heaven, fervently commended their adventuring brethren to the Lord and his blessing. Thus, after mutual embraces, accompanied with many tears, they bid a long, and many of them a last, farewell."

I V.

ARRIVAL OF THE MAYFLOWER.—FIRST GOVERNOR CHOSEN.—PEREGRINE WHITE, FIRST CHILD BORN.—BUILDING AND SETTLEMENT OF PLYMOUTH.

HAVING a fair wind, they arrived at Southampton about the 2d of July, and found that the Mayflower had arrived at that place from London, and immediate preparations were made for embarkation. They divided themselves into two companies, one for each ship, and, with the approbation of the captains, each company chose a governor, and two or three assistants, to preserve order and distribute provisions. They sailed from Southampton on the 5th of August. They had not proceeded far before the smallest ship proved so leaky, that they were obliged to return and refit. On the 21st of August, they sailed again, and proceeded about one hundred leagues, when they were obliged to return again, when the smaller ship was left behind as unfit for service. Leaving a part of the company which had embarked in the smaller vessel, the remainder went on board of the Mayflower. On the 6th of September they set sail from Plymouth. After a boisterous passage, they arrived at Cape Cod on the 9th of November, and the next day they anchored in the harbor which is formed by the hook of the cape. This, however, was not the place of their destination; neither was it within the limits of their patent. It was their

intention to have been landed at the mouth of Hudson River ; but it appears that the Dutch, intending to plant a colony there of their own, secretly hired the master of the ship to contrive delays in England, and then to conduct them to these northern coasts, and there, under the pretence of shoals and winter, to discourage them in venturing to the place of their destination.

Finding that they were not within the limits of their patent, and consequently not under the jurisdiction of the Virginia Company, they concluded it necessary to establish a separate government for themselves. Accordingly, before landing, having devoutly given thanks to the Almighty for their safe arrival, they formed themselves into a body politic by a *solemn contract*, to which they all subscribed, and Mr. John Carver was unanimously chosen their governor for the first year. The following is a copy of this contract, with the names of the signers, the number in their families, &c. :—

“ In the name of God, Amen. We whose names are under written, the loyal subjects of our dread sovereign Lord King James, by the grace of God, of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, king, defender of the faith, &c., having undertaken, for the glory of God and advancement of the Christian faith and honor of our king and country, a voyage to plant the first colony in the northern parts of Virginia, do, by these presents, solemnly and mutually, in the presence of God and of one another, covenant and combine ourselves together into a civil body politic, for our better ordering and preservation, and furtherance of the ends aforesaid ; and by virtue hereof do enact, constitute, and frame such just and equal laws and ordinances, acts, constitutions, and offices, from time to time, as shall be thought most meet and convenient for the general good of the colony, unto which we promise all due subjection and obedience. In witness whereof we have hereunto subscribed our names, at Cape Cod, the 11th day of November, in the year of the reign of our sovereign Lord King James of England, France, and Ireland, the eighteenth, and of Scotland the fifty-fourth, Anno Domini 1620.’

“ This compact was subscribed in the following order by

<i>No. in Family.</i>	<i>No. in Family</i>
Mr. John Carver,†	Mr. William Brewster,†
Mr. William Bradford,†	Mr. Isaac Allerton,†
Mr. Edward Winslow,†	Capt. Miles Standish,†

† Those with this mark brought their wives.

John Alden,
 Mr. Samuel Fuller,
 *Mr. Christopher Martin,†
 *Mr. William Mullins,†
 *Mr. William White,†
 (besides a son born in Cape
 Cod harbor, and named
 Peregrine,)
 Mr. Richard Warren,
 John Howland, (of Carver's
 family,)
 Mr. Stephen Hopkins,†
 *Edward Tilly,†
 *John Tilly,†
 Francis Cook,
 *Thomas Rogers,
 *Thomas Tinker,†
 *John Ridgdale,†
 *Edward Fuller,†
 *John Turner,
 Francis Eaton,†

*James Chilton,†
 *John Crackston,
 John Billington,†
 *Moses Fletcher,
 *John Goodman,
 *Degory Priest,
 *Thomas Williams,
 Gilbert Winslow,
 *Edward Margeson,
 Peter Brown,
 *Richard Britterige,
 George Soule, (of Edward
 Winslow's family),
 *Richard Clarke,
 Richard Gardiner,
 *John Allerton,
 *Thomas English,
 Edward Dotey, Edward
 Leister (both of Stephen
 Hopkins's family).

" This brief, and comprehensive, and simple instrument established a most important principle, a principle which is the foundation of all the democratic institutions of America, and is the basis of the republic; and, however it may be expanded and complicated in our various constitutions, however unequally power may be distributed in the different branches of our various governments, has imparted to each its strongest and most striking characteristic.

" Many philosophers have since appeared, who have, in labored treatises, endeavored to prove the doctrine, that the rights of man are inalienable, and nations have bled to defend and enforce them; yet in this dark age, the age of despotism and superstition, — when no tongue dared to assert, and no pen to write, this bold and novel doctrine, which was then as much at defiance with common opinion as with actual power, of which the monarch was then held to be the sole fountain, and the theory was universal, that all popular rights were granted by the crown, — in this remote wilderness, amongst a small and unknown band of wandering outcasts, the principle *that the will of the majority of the people shall govern* was first conceived, and was first practically exemplified.

*. Those who died before the end of the next March are distinguished by an asterisk.

† Those with this mark brought their wives.

“The pilgrims, from their notions of primitive Christianity, the force of circumstances, and that pure moral feeling which is the offspring of true religion, discovered a truth in the science of government which had been concealed for ages. On the bleak shore of a barren wilderness, in the midst of desolation, with the blast of winter howling around them, and surrounded with dangers in their most awful and appalling forms, the pilgrims of Leyden laid the foundation of American liberty.”—*Baylies*, Vol. I. p. 29.

Government being thus established, their next object was to find a convenient place for a settlement. On the same day sixteen men, well armed, with a few others, were sent on shore to fetch wood and make discoveries. They returned at night without having found any person or habitation. On the 15th of November, Miles Standish, and sixteen armed men, in searching for a place for settlement, saw five or six Indians, whom they followed for several miles, until night; but, not overtaking them, were obliged to lodge in the woods. The next day they discovered heaps, one of which they dug open; but finding within implements of war, they concluded these were Indian graves. In different heaps of sand they also found baskets of corn, a quantity of which they took away, to the amount of about ten bushels. This was a fortunate discovery. It gave them seed for a future harvest, and probably saved the infant colony from famine. They made diligent inquiry for the owners of the corn, whom they found, and afterwards paid them to their entire satisfaction. Before the end of November, *Peregrine White*, the son of William and Susanna White, was born, being the first child of European parents born in New England.

On the 6th of December, the shallop was sent out with several of the principal men, — Carver, Bradford, Winslow, Standish, and others, — and eight or ten seamen, to sail around the bay in search of a place for a settlement. The next day the company divided; and some travelled on the shore, whilst the others coasted in the shallop. On the morning of the 8th, those on the shore were surprised by a party of Indians, who shot their arrows at them; they, however, instantly fled upon the discharge of the muskets of the English. On the night of the 9th, being Saturday, they reached a small island (since called Clark's Island). They reposed themselves, and on the next day on this spot they kept the Christian Sabbath. The

day following (December 11th, O. S.) they sounded the harbor, and found it "fit for shipping." A part of their number landed and went some distance into the country. They also examined the land near the shore, and found it had been planted with Indian corn two or three years before. A beautiful brook was near, and a number of springs of pure water; and judging this to be a good place for a settlement, they returned with the welcome intelligence to the ship. This day has since been considered as the day on which the *Pilgrim Fathers* landed on the Rock of Plymouth. The day which has been annually celebrated in commemoration of this momentous event, is the 22d of December, N. S., which has been supposed to correspond with the 11th, O. S.

On Saturday, the 23d, they began to cut timber and provide materials for building. This business found them employment, when the weather would permit, till about the 19th of February. The whole company, consisting of one hundred and one souls, were divided into nineteen families, who each built their own house or hut; they all, however, engaged in building a storehouse twenty feet square for common use. From the time of their arrival on the coast till the day of their permanent landing, the weather was often stormy and severe. The men who were employed in exploring the coast were exposed to great hardships from watchings and fastings, wet and cold. During the month of December, six of their number died, and many others sickened of grievous colds, of which they never recovered. On the Lord's day, December 31st, they attended public worship for the first time on shore, and named the place *Plymouth*; partly because the harbor was so named by Captain Smith, who visited this coast in 1614, and partly from gratitude for the kind treatment they had received from Christian friends at Plymouth, the last port in England which they had left.

The colonists, on the 9th of January, 1621, proceeded to the erection of their town, which they built in two rows of houses for greater security. On the 14th, their common storehouse took fire from a spark that fell on its thatched roof, and was entirely consumed; but providentially, by the timely exertions of the people, the contents of the building, so necessary for their support, were preserved. On the 17th of February they met for settling military orders, and Miles Standish was chosen their captain. The settlers suffered extremely this month by sickness and death, and no less than seventeen of their number died.



LANDING OF THE "PILRIM FATHERS" AT PLYMOUTH, DECEMBER 22, 1620.—Page 16.

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Their sufferings were much increased by the want of well persons to take care of the sick; there being at one time no more than six or seven in tolerable health. In March, 1621, fifty-five only survived of the one hundred and one who came over in the Mayflower.

V.

TREATY WITH THE INDIANS.—VISIT OF EDWARD WINSLOW TO MASSASOIT.

ON the 16th of March, an Indian came into Plymouth alone, and surprised the inhabitants by calling out in broken English, "*Welcome Englishmen! Welcome, Englishmen!*" He was the first of the natives who visited them; his name was *Samoset*, and he was a sagamore who had come from *Monhiggon* (a place now in the limits of Maine), where he had learned something of the English tongue from the captains of the fishing-vessels who resorted thither. He informed the Plymouth people that the place where they were seated was called by the Indians *Patuxet*; that all the inhabitants died of an extraordinary plague about four years since; and that there was neither man, woman, nor child remaining. No natives, therefore, were dispossessed of their land to make room for the English, excepting by the providence of God, before their arrival.

Samoset was treated with hospitality by the settlers, and was disposed to preserve an intercourse with them; and on his third visit brought *Squanto*, one of the natives who had been basely carried off by Captain Hunt in 1614, and afterwards lived in England. These Indians informed the English that *Massasoit*, the greatest king of the neighboring tribes, was near, with a train of sixty men. The meeting between him and the English was conducted with considerable formality and parade. They entered into a friendly treaty, wherein they agreed to avoid injuries on both sides, to punish offenders, to restore stolen goods, to assist each other in all justifiable wars, to promote peace among their neighbors, &c. Massasoit and his successors for fifty years inviolably observed this treaty. The prudent and upright conduct of the Plymouth settlers towards their neighbors, the Indians, secured their friendship and alliance. On the 13th of September, 1621, no less than nine sachems declared allegiance to King James, and Massasoit, with many sachems under him,

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master Hamden and Hobbamock durst attempt it with me; whom I found willing to that or any other course might tend to the general good. So we went towards Mattapuyst.

“ In the way, Hobbamock, manifesting a troubled spirit, brake forth into these speeches: ‘ *Neen womasu Sagimus, neen womasu Sagimus, &c.*, — My loving sachem, my loving sachem! Many have I known, but never any like thee.’ And, turning to me, he said whilst I lived I should never see his like amongst the Indians; saying he was no liar; he was not bloody and cruel, like other Indians. In anger and passion he was soon reclaimed; easy to be reconciled towards such as had offended him; ruled by reason in such measure as he would not scorn the advice of mean men; and that he governed his men better with few strokes than others did with many; truly loving where he loved; yea, he feared we had not a faithful friend left among the Indians; showing how he oftentimes restrained their malice, &c.; continuing a long speech, with such signs of lamentation and unfeigned sorrow, as it would have made the hardest heart relent.

“ At length we came to Mattapuyst, and went to the *sachimo comaco*, for so they called the sachem’s place though they call an ordinary house *witeo*; but Conbatant, the sachem, was not at home, but at Puckanokick, which was some five or six miles off.* The *squa sachem*, for so they call the sachem’s wife, gave us friendly entertainment. Here we inquired again concerning Massassowat: they thought him dead, but knew no certainty. Whereupon I hired one to go, with all expedition, to Puckanokick, that we might know the certainty thereof, and withal to acquaint Conbatant with our there being. About half an hour before sun-setting the messenger returned, and told us that he was not yet dead, though there was no hope we should find him living. Upon this we were much revived, and set forward with all speed, though it was late within night ere we got thither. About two of the clock, that afternoon, the Dutchmen departed; so that in that respect our journey was frustrate.

“ When we came thither, we found the house so full of men, as we could scarce get in, though they used their best diligence to make way for us. There were they in the midst of their charms for him, making such a hellish noise as it distempered us that were well, and therefore unlike to ease him that was sick. About him were six or eight women, who chafed his arms, legs, and thighs, to keep heat in him. When they had made an end of their charming, one told him that his friends, the

English, were come to see him. Having understanding left, but his sight was wholly gone, he asked who was come. They told him Winsnow, for they cannot pronounce the letter *l*, but ordinarily *n* in the place thereof. He desired to speak with me. When I came to him, and they told him of it, he put forth his hand to me, which I took. Then he said twice, though very inwardly, *Keen Winsnow?* which is to say, Art thou Winslow? I answered, *Ahhe*, that is, Yes. Then he doubled these words: *Matta neen wonckanet namen, Winsnow!* that is to say, O Winslow, I shall never see thee again.

“Then I called Hobbamock, and desired him to tell Massasowat, that the governor, hearing of his sickness, was sorry for the same; and though, by reason of many businesses, he could not come himself, yet he sent me with such things for him as he thought most likely to do him good in this extremity; and whereof if he pleased to take, I would presently give him; which he desired; and having a confection of many comfortable conserves, on the point of my knife, I gave him some, which I could scarce get through his teeth. When it was dissolved in his mouth, he swallowed the juice of it; whereat those that were about him much rejoiced, saying he had not swallowed any thing in two days before. Then I desired to see his mouth, which was exceedingly furred, and his tongue swelled in such a manner as it was not possible for him to eat such meat as they had, his passage being stopped up. Then I washed his mouth, and scraped his tongue, and got abundance of corruption out of the same. After which I gave him more of the confection, which he swallowed with more readiness. Then he desired to drink. I dissolved some of it in water, and gave him thereof. Within half an hour this wrought a great alteration in him, in the eyes of all that beheld him. Presently after, his sight began to come to him. . . . Then I gave him more, and told him of a mishap we had, in breaking a bottle of drink, which the governor also sent him, saying, if he would send any of his men to Patuxet, I would send for more of the same; also for chickens to make him broth, and for other things, which I knew were good for him; and would stay the return of his messenger, if he desired. This he took marvellous kindly, and appointed some, who were ready to go by two of the clock in the morning; against which time I made ready a letter, declaring therein our good success, the state of his body, &c., desiring to send such things as I sent for, and such physie as the surgeon durst administer to him

"He requested me that, the day following, I would take my piece, and kill him some fowl, and make him some English pottage, such as he had eaten at Plymouth; which I promised. After, his stomach coming to him, I must needs make him some without fowl, before I went abroad, which somewhat troubled me; but being I must do somewhat, I caused a woman to bruise some corn, and take the flour from it, and set over the grit, or broken corn, in a pipkin, for they have earthen pots of all sizes. When the day broke, we went out, it being now March, to seek herbs, but could not find any but strawberry leaves, of which I gathered a handful, and put into the same; and because I had nothing to relish it, I went forth again, and pulled up a sassafras root, and sliced a piece thereof, and boiled it, till it had a good relish, and then took it out again. The broth being boiled, I strained it through my handkerchief, and gave him at least a pint, which he drank, and liked it very well. After this his sight mended more and more; and he took some rest; inso-much as we with admiration blessed God for giving his blessing to such raw and ignorant means, making no doubt of his recovery, himself and all of them acknowledging us the instruments of his preservation. That morning he caused me to spend in going from one to another amongst those that were sick in the town, requesting me to wash their mouths also, and give to each of them some of the same I gave him, saying that they were good folk. This pains I took with willingness, though it were much offensive to me, not being accustomed with such poisonous savors.

"The messengers were now returned, but finding his stomach come to him, he would not have the chickens killed, but kept them for breed. Neither durst we give him any physic, which was then sent, because his body was so much altered since our instructions; neither saw we any need, not doubting now of his recovery, if he were careful. Many, whilst we were there, came to see him; some, by their report, from a place not less than a hundred miles. Upon this his recovery, he brake forth into these speeches: 'Now I see the English are my friends and love me; and whilst I live, I will never forget this kindness they have showed me.' Whilst we were there, our entertainment exceeded all other strangers." — *Good News from New England*.

Massasoit, gratefully impressed with the kind offices performed by Winslow, revealed a plot of the Massachusetts Indians against Weston's people at Wessagusset, and, lest the English

at Plymouth should avenge their countrymen, they were also to be destroyed; and he advised them to kill the conspirators, as the only means of security. The governor, on receiving this intelligence, which was confirmed by other evidences, despatched Captain Standish with eight men, in order, if a plot should be discovered, to fall on the conspirators. Standish sailed to the Massachusetts, where the natives, suspecting his design, insulted and threatened him. Watching his opportunity, when four of the principal conspirators were in a room with about the same number of his own men, he attacked them, and, after a dreadful struggle, succeeded in killing the whole. This sudden and unexpected execution so terrified the other natives, who had intended to join with the Massachusetts in the conspiracy, that they forsook their houses and fled to swamps and desert places, where they contracted diseases which proved mortal to many of them, among whom were a number of sachems.

V I.

WILLIAM BRADFORD SUCCEEDS GOVERNOR CARVER IN OFFICE.
—MANY NEW TOWNS SETTLED.—NEW COLONY FORMED IN
CONNECTICUT.

In May, 1621, the English planted their first corn in New England. In July following, their worthy governor sickened and died. His death was greatly lamented by those of the company who survived him, and by whom he was interred with all possible solemnity. His loving consort survived him but a few weeks. In August the company made choice of Mr. William Bradford to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of Governor Carver.

New England from this time began to be rapidly peopled by the Europeans. So great was the emigration from the mother country, that, in less than six years from the time that the first adventurers landed at New Plymouth, there were seven considerable towns built and settled in Massachusetts.

In the summer of 1627 Mr. Endicott, one of the original planters, was sent over to begin the plantation at Naumkeag (now Salem). The June following, about two hundred persons, furnished with four ministers, came over and joined Mr. Endicott's colony; and the next year they formed themselves into a regular church. This was the first church gathered in that colony, and the second in New England. The church at

Plymouth had been gathered some time before. In 1629, a large embarkation was projected by the company in England. At the request of a number of respectable gentlemen, most of whom afterwards came over to New England, the general consent of the company was obtained, that the government should be transferred and settled in Massachusetts.

In 1630, seventeen ships, from different ports in England, arrived at Massachusetts, with more than fifteen hundred passengers, among whom were many persons of distinction. Incredible were the hardships they endured. Reduced to a scanty pittance of provisions, and that of a kind to which they had not been accustomed, numbers sickened and died, so that before the end of the year they had lost two hundred of their number. About this time settlements were made at Charlestown, Medford, Boston, Dorchester, Cambridge, and Roxbury.

In the years 1632 and 1633 great additions were made to the colony. Such was the rage for emigration to New England, that the king and council thought fit to issue an order, February 7, 1634, to prevent it. The order, however, was not strictly obeyed.

In 1635 the foundation of a new colony was laid in Connecticut, adjoining this State. Of the river and the country adjacent Lord Say and Lord Brook were the proprietors; and at the mouth of it a fort by their direction was built, which in honor of them was called Saybrook fort. New Haven was settled soon after the building of this fort, as were a number of other towns of considerable note in Connecticut. Some difficulty arising among those who first settled at New Plymouth, a part of the inhabitants, to prevent any serious consequences, removed to a pleasant and fertile island to the southwest of Cape Cod, now called Rhode Island, while others settled at Providence, Warwick, Taunton, &c. Thus it was, that in the course of a few years a great part of New England, which so late was an uncultivated forest, resounding with yells of savages and beasts of prey, became the place of abode of our persecuted forefathers.

But this newly settled country was not to be acquired without bloodshed. The natives at first appeared harmless and well disposed towards the new settlers, but from the rapid increase and too frequent aggression of the latter, the jealousy of the former was excited, which they soon began more openly to manifest, as will appear by what follows.

VII.

BARBAROUS ACTS OF THE PEQUOTS.—TREATY AND PERFDY.
—ATTACK ON FORT SAYBROOK.

THERE was a tribe of Indians which inhabited the borders of Connecticut River, from its mouth to within a few miles of Hartford, called Pequots, a fierce, cruel, and warlike tribe, and the inveterate enemies of the whites; never failing to improve every opportunity to exercise toward them the most wanton acts of barbarity. In June, 1634, they treacherously murdered a Captain Stone and Captain Norton, who had been long in the habit of visiting them occasionally to trade. In August, 1635, they inhumanly murdered a Mr. Weeks and his whole family, consisting of a wife and six children, and soon after murdered the wife and children of a Mr. Williams, residing near Hartford. Finding, however, that by their unprovoked acts of barbarity they had enkindled the resentment of the English, who, aroused to a sense of their danger, were making preparations to exterminate this cruel tribe, the Pequots despatched messengers with gifts to the governor of the colonies, the Hon. Josiah Winslow. He being, however, inflexible in his determination to revenge the death of his friends, dismissed these messengers without any answer. The Pequots finding the English resolute and determined, and fearing the consequences of their resentment, the second time despatched messengers with a large quantity of wampum (Indian money), as a present to the governor and council; with whom the latter had a considerable conference, and at length concluded a peace on the following terms:—

I. The Pequots shall deliver up to the English those of their tribe that are guilty of the deaths of their countrymen.

II. The Pequots shall relinquish to the English all their right and title to the lands lying within the colony of Connecticut.

III. The English, if disposed to trade with the Pequots, shall be treated as friends.

To these articles the Pequots readily agreed, and promised faithfully to adhere, and at the same time expressed a desire to make peace with the Narragansett Indians, with whom they were then at war.

Soon after the conclusion of peace with the Pequots, the English, to put their fair promises to the test, sent a small boat into the river, on the borders of which they resided, with the pretence of trade; but so great was the treachery of the natives,

that, after succeeding by fair promises in enticing the crew of the boat on shore, they were by them inhumanly murdered.

The Pequots, despairing of again deceiving the English in the manner they had lately done, now threw off the mask of friendship, and, avowing themselves the natural enemies of the English, commenced open hostilities against them, and barbarously murdered all that were so unfortunate as to fall into their hands. A few families were at this time settled at or near Wethersfield, Conn., the whole of whom were carried away captives by them. Two girls, the daughters of Mr. Gibbons of Hartford, were in the most brutal manner put to death. After gashing their flesh with their knives, the Indians filled their wounds with hot embers, in the mean time mimicking their dying groans.

The Pequots, encouraged by the trifling resistance made by the English to their wanton acts of barbarity, on the 20th of June, 1636, besieged Fort Saybrook, in which there were about twenty men stationed. The Indians were to the number of about one hundred and fifty. They surrounded and furiously attacked the fort at midnight, horribly yelling, and mimicking the dying groans of such as had fallen victims to their barbarity; but the English, being fortunately provided with a piece or two of cannon, caused their savage enemies to groan in reality, who, after receiving two or three deadly fires from the besieged, retreated, leaving behind them, dead or mortally wounded, about twenty of their number. The English sustained no loss in the attack.

VIII.

DESTRUCTION OF WIGWAMS AND CANOES AT BLOCK ISLAND AND PEQUOT HARBOR. — TREATY WITH THE NARRAGANSETTS.

The governor and council of Massachusetts colony, alarmed at the bold and daring conduct of the Pequots, on the 20th of August despatched Captain Endicott, of Salem, with ninety men, to avenge the murders committed by them, unless they should consent to deliver up the murderers, and make reparation for the injuries the English had sustained. Captain Endicott was directed to proceed first to Block Island, then inhabited by the Pequots, put the men to the sword, and take possession of the island. The women and children were to be spared. Thence he

was to proceed to the Pequot country, demand the murderers of the English, a thousand fathom of wampum, and a number of their children as hostages.

Captain Endicott sailed from Boston on the morning of the 20th. When he arrived at Block Island, about sixty Indians appeared on the shore and opposed his landing. His men soon, however, effected a landing, and after a little skirmishing drove the Indians into the wood, where they could not be found.

The English continued two or three days on the island, in which time they destroyed one hundred wigwams, and about fifty canoes, when they proceeded for the Pequot country. When they arrived in Pequot Harbor, Captain Endicott acquainted the enemy with his designs and determination to avenge the cruelties practised upon his countrymen. In a few moments nearly five hundred of the enemy collected on the shores; but as soon as they were made acquainted with the hostile views of the English, they hastily withdrew, and secreted themselves in swamps and ledges inaccessible to the troops. Captain Endicott landed his men on both sides of the harbor, burnt their wigwams and destroyed their canoes, and killed an Indian or two, and then returned to Boston! Enough indeed had been done to exasperate, but nothing to subdue, a warlike enemy. Sasacus, chief of the Pequots, and his captains, were men of great and independent spirits; they had conquered and governed the nations around them without control; they viewed the English as strangers and mere intruders, who had no right to the country nor to control its original proprietors. Independent princes and sovereigns, they had made settlements at Connecticut without their consent, and brought home the Indian kings whom they had conquered, and restored them their authority and lands. They had built a fort, and were making a settlement without their approbation in their very neighborhood. Indeed, they had now proceeded to attack and ravage the country. The Pequots in consequence breathed nothing but war and revenge; they were determined to extirpate, or drive all the English from New England. For this purpose, they conceived the plan of uniting the Indians generally against them; they spared no art nor pains to make peace with the Narragansetts, and to engage them in the war against the English, to whom they represented that they were bad men, and the natural enemies of the natives, and also were foreigners, overspreading the country, and depriving the original inhabitants of their ancient rights and

possessions; that unless effectual means were immediately provided to prevent it, they would dispossess the original proprietors, and become the lords of the continent. They insisted that by a general combination they could either destroy or drive them from the country; that there would be no necessity of coming to open battles; that by killing their cattle, firing their houses, laying ambushes on their roads, in their fields, and wherever they could surprise and destroy them, they might accomplish their object; they represented, that, if the English should effect the destruction of the Pequots, they would also soon destroy the Narragansetts. So just and politic were these representations, that nothing but that thirst for revenge, which inflames the savage heart, could have resisted their influence. Indeed, it is said that for some time the Narragansetts hesitated.

The governor of the colonies, to prevent a union between these savage nations, and to strengthen the peace between the Narragansett Indians and the colonies, despatched a messenger to invite Miantinomi, their chief sachem, to Boston. The invitation was accepted by Miantinomi, and while at Boston, with the governor and council, he entered into a treaty, the substance of which was as follows:— That there should be a firm peace maintained between the English and Narragansetts, who should not harbor the enemies of the English, but deliver up to them such fugitives as should resort to them for safety. The English were to give them notice when they went out against the Pequots, and the Narragansetts were to furnish them with guides.

IX.

CRUELITIES OF THE PEQUOTS. — PUNISHMENT OF A TRAITOR BY UNCAS.

In February, 1637, the English in Connecticut colony represented to the governor their desire to prosecute more effectually the war with the Pequots, who yet continued to exercise toward them the most wanton acts of barbarity. They represented, that on the 10th of January a boat containing three of their countrymen was attacked by the enemy when proceeding down the river; that the English for some time bravely defended themselves, but were overpowered by numbers; that the Indians, when they had succeeded in capturing the boat's crew, ripped them up from the bottom of their bellies to their throats.

and in like manner split them down their backs, and, thus mangled, hung them upon the trees by the river-side. They represented, that the affairs of Connecticut colony at this moment wore a most gloomy aspect; that they had sustained great losses in cattle and goods the preceding years, but were still more unfortunate the present; that they could neither hunt nor fish nor cultivate their fields, nor travel at home or abroad, but at the peril of their lives; that they were obliged to keep a constant watch by night and day, to go armed to their daily labors, and to the houses of public worship. And although desirous to prosecute the war more effectually with the common enemy, they were not in a situation to do it, and therefore humbly prayed for assistance.

The report of the horrid and unprovoked cruelties of the Pequots, practised upon the defenceless inhabitants of Connecticut colony, roused the other colonies to the most harmonious and spirited exertions against them. Massachusetts determined to send two hundred, and Plymouth forty men, to assist their unfortunate brethren in prosecuting the war. Captain Patrick with forty men was sent before the other troops, in order that he might be enabled seasonably to form a junction with the troops in Connecticut, who, notwithstanding their weak and distressed state, engaged to furnish ninety men.

On Wednesday, the 10th of May, the Connecticut troops proceeded to Fort Saybrook. They consisted of ninety Englishmen and seventy Mohegan and River Indians, the latter commanded by Uncas, sachem of the Mohegans, and the former by Captain John Mason, who was accompanied by the Rev. Mr. Stone of Hartford, as chaplain. The Mohegans being detached from the English, on their way to Saybrook fell in with a considerable body of the enemy, whom they defeated. They killed twenty-two, and took eighteen of them prisoners.

Among the prisoners there was one who was recognized as a perfidious villain; he had lived in the fort some time before, and well understood their language; he remained attached to their interest till the commencement of hostilities with the Pequots, when he deserted the garrison and joined the enemy, whom he served as a guide, and through whose instigation many of the English had been captured and put to death. Uncas and his men insisted upon executing him according to the custom of their ancestors, and the English, in the circumstances in which they were, did not judge it prudent to interfere. The

Indians enkindled a fire, near which they confined the prisoner to a stake, in which situation he remained until his skin became parched with heat. The Mohegans then violently tore him limb from limb; barbarously cutting his flesh in pieces, they handed it round from one to another, eating it while they sung and danced round the fire in a manner peculiar to savages! The bones, and such parts of the unfortunate captive as were not consumed in this dreadful repast, were committed to the flames and consumed to ashes.

On the 19th, Captain Mason and his men proceeded for Narragansett Bay, at which place they safely arrived on the 21st. Captain Mason marched immediately to the plantation of Canonicus, a Narragansett sachem, and acquainted him with his designs, and immediately after despatched a messenger to Miantinomi, to inform him likewise of the expedition. The next day Miantinomi, with his chief counsellors and warriors, met the English. Captain Mason informed him that the cause of his entering his country with an armed force was to revenge the injuries which the Pequots had done to the English, and desired a free passage to their forts which they intended to attack. After a solemn consultation, in the Indian manner, Miantinomi observed that "he highly approved of the expedition, and would send men to assist the English, but that they were too few in number to fight the enemy; that the Pequots were great warriors and rather slighted the English."

X.

DREADFUL SLAUGHTER AND EXTERMINATION OF THE PEQUOTS.

THE important day was now approaching when the very existence of Connecticut was to be determined by the sword in a single action; and to be determined by the valor of less than a hundred brave men. About two hours before day, the men were aroused from their slumbers by their officers, and, after commending themselves and their cause to the Almighty, proceeded with all possible despatch for the enemy's fort. When within a few rods of the fort, Captain Mason sent for Uncas and Wequash, and desired them in their Indian manner to harangue and prepare their men for the combat. They replied, "that their men were much afraid, and could not be prevailed on to advance any farther!" "Go, then," said Captain Mason, "and request them

not to retire, but to surround the fort at any distance they please, and see what courage Englishmen can display!" The day was now dawning, and no time was to be lost. The fort was soon in view. The soldiers pressed forward, animated by the reflection that it was not for themselves alone that they were to fight, but for their parents, wives, children, and countrymen. As they approached the fort within a short distance, they were discovered by a Pequot sentinel, who roared out "Owanux, Owanux!" (Englishmen, Englishmen!) The troops pressed on, and as the Indians were rallying poured in upon them the contents of their muskets, and instantly hastening to the principal entrance of the fort, rushed in, sword in hand. An important moment this! For notwithstanding the blaze and thunder of the arms of the English, the Pequots made a powerful resistance. Sheltered by their wigwams, and rallied by their sachems and squaws, they defended themselves, and in some instances attacked the English with a resolution that would have done honor to the Romans. After a bloody and desperate conflict of nearly two hours continuance, in which hundreds of the Indians were slain, and many of the English killed and wounded, victory still hung in suspense. In this critical state of the action, Captain Mason had recourse to a successful expedient. Rushing into a wigwam within the fort, he seized a brand of fire, in the mean time crying out to his men, "We must burn them!" and communicated it to the mats with which the wigwams were covered, by which means the whole fort was very soon enwrapt in flames. As the fire increased, the English retired and formed a circle round the fort. The Mohegans and Narragansetts, who remained idle spectators of the bloody carnage, now mustered courage sufficient to form another circle in the rear of them. The enemy were now in a deplorable situation. Death inevitable was their portion. Sallying forth from their burning cells, they were shot or cut in pieces by the English. Many of them, perceiving it impossible to escape the vigilance of the troops, threw themselves voluntarily into the flames.

The violence of the flames, the reflection of the light, the clashing and roar of arms, the shrieks and yells of the savages in the fort, and the shouting of the friendly Indians without, exhibited a grand and awful scene. In less than two hours from the commencement of the bloody action, the English completed their work. Eighty wigwams were burnt, and upwards of eight hundred Indians destroyed! Parents and children, the sanu

and the squaw, the aged and the young, perished in promiscuous ruin. The loss of the English was comparatively trifling, not exceeding twenty-five killed and wounded.

After the termination of this severe engagement, as the English were proceeding to embark on board their vessels, which fortunately for them at this moment arrived in the harbor, they were attacked in the rear, by about three hundred of the enemy, who had been despatched from a neighboring fort to assist their brethren. The English gave them so warm a reception, that they soon gave way, and fell back to the field of action, where, viewing for a few moments, with apparent marks of surprise and horror, the shocking scene which it presented, they stamped, bellowed, and with savage rage tore their hair from their heads, and then, with a hideous yell, pursued the English, as if with the determination to avenge the deaths of their friends, even at the expense of their lives. They pursued the English nearly six miles, sometimes shooting at a distance, from behind rocks and trees, and sometimes pressing hard upon them, and hazarding themselves in open field. The English killed numbers of them, but sustained no loss on their part. When a Pequot fell, the Mohegans would cry out, "Run and fetch his head!" The enemy finding at length that they discharged arrows in vain, and that the English appeared to be well stocked with ammunition, gave over the pursuit.

In less than three weeks from the time the English embarked at Saybrook, they returned, with the exception of a few killed and wounded, in safety to their respective habitations. Few enterprises were ever perhaps achieved with more personal bravery; in few have so great proportion of the effective men of a whole colony, state, or nation been put to so great and immediate danger; in few have a people been so deeply and immediately interested, as were the English inhabitants of Connecticut at this important crisis. In these respects, even the great armaments and battles of Europe are comparatively of little importance; and it ought never to be forgotten, that through the bravery and unconquerable resolution of less than one hundred men, Connecticut was once saved, and the most warlike tribe of Indians in New England completely exterminated.

XI.

PURSUIT AND ENTIRE OVERTHROW OF THE PEQUOT TRIBE.

THE few Pequots who now remained alive, conceiving it unsafe to inhabit longer a country so exposed to invasion, removed far to the westward; among whom was Sasacus, their principal sachem. On the 25th of June, the Connecticut troops, under command of Captain Mason, together with a company from Massachusetts commanded by Captain Stoughton, were sent in pursuit of them. They proceeded westward, and on the 27th fell in with and attacked and defeated a considerable body of them. They took about fifty of them prisoners, among whom were two sachems, whose lives were offered them on condition of their serving as guides to the English.

The English while on their march frequently fell in with small detached parties of the enemy, whom they captured or destroyed, but could not obtain any information relative to the main body commanded by Sasacus. Finding that the two sachem prisoners would not give them the information required, they on the 29th beheaded them at a place called Menunkuteh (now Guilford), from which circumstance the place still bears the name of Sachem's Head. The English on the 30th arrived at Quinnipauk, now New Haven, where they were informed by a friendly Pequot that the enemy were encamped in a swamp, a few miles to the westward. The troops pushed forward, and on the succeeding day arrived at the border of said swamp, which they found a thicket so extremely boggy as to render it inaccessible to any one but the natives. The English therefore thought it most advisable to surround the swamp and annoy the enemy as an opportunity presented. The Indians, after a few skirmishes, requested a parley, which being granted them, Thomas Stanton, interpreter to the English, was sent to treat with them. He was authorized to offer life to such as had not shed the blood of the English. Upon which the sachem of the place, together with about three hundred of the tribe, came out, and, producing satisfactory proof of their innocence, were permitted to retire; but the Pequots boldly declared that "they had both shed and drank the blood of Englishmen, and would not upon such terms accept of life, but would fight it out!" The English, unwilling to brook the threats and insulting language of the Pequots, attempted now to devise means to attack the whole body of them without further delay. The officers were, however, divided in

opinion as to the mode of attack. Some were for setting fire to the swamp, others for cutting their way through with hatchets, and others for surrounding it with a high fence or palisado; neither of which plans was, however, fully adopted. As night approached, the English cut through a part of the swamp, by which means its circumference was considerably lessened, and they enabled so completely to surround the enemy as to prevent their escaping during the night. Early the ensuing morning, the Indians, perceiving themselves completely hemmed in by the English, made a violent attempt to break through their lines; they were, however, driven back with great loss. They next attempted to force the line formed by the Connecticut troops, but here they met with a much warmer reception. The contest now became close and severe. The Indians, who were about six hundred in number, appeared determined not to yield but at the expense of their lives. One of the most resolute of them walked boldly up to Captain Mason, with an uplifted tomahawk, and when about to give the fatal stroke received a blow from the latter, who, with his cutlass, severed the head of the savage from his body. The enemy soon after made another attempt to break through the lines of the English, in which, after a violent struggle, they finally succeeded. About sixty of their bravest warriors escaped, the remainder were killed or taken prisoners. The loss of the English was eleven killed and twenty wounded.

The prisoners taken were divided among the troops, some of whom were retained by them as servants, and the remainder sent to the West Indies and sold to planters. The prisoners reported that the whole tribe of Pequots was now nearly exterminated; that in different engagements there had been upwards of two thousand of them killed, and one thousand captured, among whom were thirteen sachems; and that six yet survived, of whom one was Sasacus, who had fled with the fragment of his tribe to a country bordering on the Hudson River, inhabited by the Mohawks.

After the swamp fight the Pequots became so weak and scattered that the Mohegans and Narragansetts daily destroyed them, and presented their scalps to the English. The few that fled with Sasacus to the westward were totally destroyed by the Mohawks. The scalp of Sasacus was in the fall of 1638 presented to the Governor and Council of Massachusetts.

XII.

GREAT BATTLE BETWEEN THE MOHEGANS AND NARRAGANSETTS — DEATH OF MIANTINOMI, A NARRAGANSETT SACHEM.

Soon after the extermination of the Pequots, the Narragansetts, the most numerous tribe in New England, being displeased with the small power with which they were vested, and the respect which the English uniformly manifested for Uncas, appeared disposed to break their treaty of friendship. Miantinomi, without consulting the English, according to agreement, without proclaiming war, or giving Uncas the least information, raised an army of one thousand men and marched against him. The spies of Uncas discovered the army at some distance, and gave him intelligence. He was unprepared, but, rallying about five hundred of his bravest men, he told them they must by no means suffer Miantinomi to enter their town, but must go and give him battle on his way. The Mohegans, having marched three or four miles, met the enemy upon an extensive plain. When the armies had advanced within fair bow-shot of each other, Uncas had recourse to a stratagem, with which he had previously acquainted his warriors. He desired a parley, which being granted, both armies halted in the face of each other. Uncas, gallantly advancing in front of his men, addressed Miantinomi to this effect: "You have a number of stout men with you, so have I with me. It is a great pity that so many brave warriors should be killed in consequence of a misunderstanding between us two. Come, like a brave man as you profess to be, and let us decide the dispute alone. If you kill me, my men shall be yours; but if I kill you, your men shall be mine." "No!" replied Miantinomi, "my men came to fight, and they shall fight." Upon which, Uncas falling to the ground, his men discharged a shower of arrows, and at a moment's interval rushing upon them in the most furious manner, with a hideous yell, put them to flight. The Mohegans pursued the enemy with the same fury and eagerness with which they commenced the action. The Narragansetts were driven down rocks and precipices, and chased like a doe by the huntsman. Many of them, to escape from their pursuers, plunged into a river from rocks of near sixty feet in height. Among others Miantinomi was hard pushed; some of the most forward of the Mohegans, coming up with him, twirled him about and so impeded his flight, that Uncas, their sachem, might alone have the honor of taking him. Uncas, who was a

man of great bodily strength, rushing forward like a lion greedy of his prey, seized Miantinomi by the shoulder, and giving the Indian whoop, called up his men who were behind, to his assistance. The victory was complete. About fifty of the Narragansetts were killed, and a much greater number wounded and taken prisoners. Among the latter was a brother of Miantinomi, and two of the sons of Canonicus, whom Uncas conducted in triumph to Mohegan. Some few days after, Uncas conducted Miantinomi back to the spot where he was taken, for the purpose of putting him to death. At the instant they arrived on the ground an Indian, who was ordered to march in the rear for the purpose, sunk a hatchet in his head and despatched him at a single stroke. He was probably unacquainted with his fate, and knew not by what means he fell. Uncas cut out a large piece of his shoulder, which he devoured in savage triumph, declaring in the mean time, that it was the sweetest meat he ever eat, it made his heart strong. The Mohegans buried Miantinomi at the place of his execution, and erected upon his grave a pillar of stones. This memorable event gave this place the name of Sachem's Plains. They are situated in an eastern corner of Norwich.

The Narragansetts became greatly enraged at the death of their sachem, and sought means to destroy Uncas, whose country they in small parties frequently invaded, and, by laying in ambush, cut off a number of his most valuable warriors. As Uncas was the avowed friend of the English, and had in many instances signalized himself as such, they conceived it their duty to afford him all the protection possible. They despatched messengers to acquaint the Narragansetts with their determination, should they continue to molest and disturb the repose of the Mohegans. The messengers of the English met with quite an unfavorable reception, to whom one of the Narragansett sachems declared, that "he would kill every Englishman or Mohegan that came within his reach; that whoever began the war, he would continue it; and that nothing should satisfy him but the head of Uncas!"

XIII.

THE ENGLISH RESOLVE TO PROTECT THE MOHEGANS.—LEFFINGWELL'S ENTERPRISE.

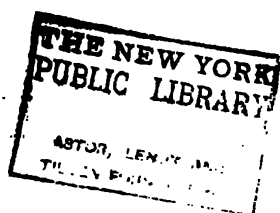
THE English, irritated at the provoking language of the Narragansetts, now determined not only to protect Uncas, but to invade their country with an army of three hundred men; first to propose a peace on their own terms, but if rejected to attack and destroy them. For this purpose Massachusetts was to furnish one hundred and ninety, and Plymouth and Connecticut fifty-five men each.

The Narragansetts, learning that an army was about to enter the heart of their country, and fearful of the consequences, despatched several of their men to sue for peace on such terms as the English should be pleased to grant. The Governor and Council demanded that they should restore to Uncas all the captives and canoes which they had taken from him, and pledge themselves to maintain perpetual peace with the English and their allies; and to pay to the former an annual tribute of two thousand fathom of wampum. These indeed were hard terms, against which the Narragansetts strongly remonstrated; but aware that the English had already a considerable force collected for the purpose of invading their country, they at length thought it most prudent to acquiesce.

During the war between the Narragansetts and Uncas, the former once besieged the fort of the latter until his provisions were nearly exhausted, and he found that his men must soon perish either by famine or the tomahawk unless speedily relieved. In this crisis he found means of communicating an account of his situation to the English scouts, who had been despatched from the fort in Saybrook to reconnoitre the enemy. Uncas represented the danger to which the English would be exposed, if the Narragansetts should succeed in destroying the Mohegans. It was at this critical juncture that the greatest portion of the English troops in Connecticut were employed on an expedition abroad; a Mr. Thomas Leffingwell, however, a bold and enterprising man, on learning the situation of Uncas, loaded a canoe with provisions, and under cover of the night paddled from Saybrook into the river Thames, and had the address to get the whole into the fort. The enemy soon after, discovering that Uncas had received supplies, raised the siege. For this piece



KING PHILIP OF POKONOKET.



of service, Uncas presented said Leffingwell with a deed of a very large tract of land, now comprising the whole town of Norwich.

XIV.

BEGINNING OF KING PHILIP'S WAR.—MURDER OF THE PEOPLE OF SWANZEY.—CAPTAIN PRENTICE SURROUNDED BY SIX HUNDRED INDIANS.—BATTLE, &c.

THE English in New England now enjoyed a peace until the year 1671, when they again took up arms to revenge the death of one of their countrymen, who had been inhumanly murdered by an Indian belonging to the Nipnet tribe, of which the celebrated Philip of Mount Hope, now Bristol, was sachem. It was thought the most prudent step by the Governor and Council first to send to Philip, and acquaint him with the cause of their resentment and the course which they were determined to pursue, in case he refused to deliver into their hands the murderer. Philip, being accordingly sent for and appearing before the court, appeared much dissatisfied with the conduct of the accused, assuring them that no pains should be spared to bring him to justice; and, more fully to confirm his friendship for the English, expressed a wish that what he was about to make might be committed to paper, that he and his council might thereunto affix their signatures.

Notwithstanding the fair promises of Philip, it was soon discovered by the English that he was playing a deep game; that he was artfully enticing his red brethren throughout the whole of New England, to rise, *en masse*, against them, and drive them out of the country. The Narragansetts, for this purpose, had engaged to raise four thousand fighting men. The spring of 1672 was the time agreed upon, on which the grand blow was to be given. The evil intentions of Philip were first discovered to the English by a friendly Indian of the Narragansett tribe.

The inhabitants of Swanzeay, a small settlement adjoining Mount Hope, the head-quarters of Philip, were the first who felt the effects of this war. Philip, encouraged by the numbers who were daily enlisting under his banners, and despairing of discovering a cause that could justify him in commencing hostilities against his "friends and brothers," as he had termed them, resolved to provoke them to war by killing their cattle, firing their barns, &c. This plan had the desired effect, as the inhabitants, deter-

mined to save their property or perish in the attempt, fired upon the Indians, which was deemed cause sufficient by the latter to commence their bloody work. The war-whoop was immediately thereupon sounded, when the Indians commenced an indiscriminate murder of the defenceless inhabitants of Swanzey, sparing not the tender infant at the breast. But three of seventy-eight persons whom the town contained made their escape. Messengers were despatched, with the melancholy tidings of this bloody affair, to the Governor, who, by and with the advice and consent of the Council, despatched a company of militia with all possible speed to the relief of the distressed inhabitants residing near the head-quarters of Philip. As soon as they could be raised, three companies were despatched, under the command of Captains HENCHMAN, PRENTICE, and CHURCH, who arrived in the neighborhood of Swanzey on the 28th of June, where they were joined by four more companies from Plymouth colony. It was found that the Indians had pillaged and set fire to the village, and with their booty had retired to Mount Hope. A company of cavalry was sent, under the command of Captain PRENTICE, to reconnoitre them; but before they arrived at a convenient place for this purpose, they were ambushed and fired upon by the enemy, who killed six of their number and wounded ten. The report of their guns alarming the remaining companies of the English, they hastened to the relief of the cavalry, who at this moment were completely surrounded by about six hundred Indians, between whom and the English a warm contest now ensued. The savages fought desperately, and more than once nearly succeeded in overpowering the English; but very fortunately for the latter, when nearly despairing of victory, a fresh company of militia from Boston arrived; which, flanking the enemy on the right and left, and exposing them to two fires, soon overpowered them and caused them to seek shelter in an adjoining wood, inaccessible to the English. The English had in this severe engagement forty-two killed, and seventy-three wounded, many of them mortally. The enemy's loss was supposed to be much greater.

X V.

INDIAN CRUELITIES. — STRATAGEM. — BRAVERY OF CAPTAIN CHURCH.

ON the 30th, Major Savage, who by his Excellency the Governor had been appointed commander-in-chief of the combined

English forces, arrived with an additional company of cavalry, who with the remaining companies the following day commenced their march for Mount Hope, the head-quarters of Philip. On their way the English were affected with a scene truly distressing. The savages, not content with bathing their tomahawks in the blood of the defenceless inhabitants of Swanzey, had, it was discovered, in many instances detached their limbs from their mangled bodies, and affixed them to poles, which were extended in the air, among which were discovered the heads of several infant children. The whole of them, by order of Major Savage, were collected and buried.

The English arrived at Mount Hope about sunset; but the enemy, receiving information of their approach, had deserted their wigwams and retired into a neighboring wood. Major Savage, to pursue the enemy with success, now divided his men into separate companies, which he ordered to march in different directions, stationing forty at Mount Hope. On the 4th of July, the men under the command of Captains Church and Henschman, fell in with a body of the enemy, to the number of two hundred, whom they attacked; the English being but thirty-two in number, including officers. Victory for a considerable length of time inclined in favor of the savages; but very fortunately for the former, being commanded by bold and resolute officers, they defended themselves in the most heroic manner until relieved by a company of cavalry under the command of Captain Prentice. The Indians now in turn, finding the fire of the English too warm for them, fled in every direction, leaving thirty of their number dead and about sixty severely wounded, on the field of action. The English in this engagement had seven killed and thirty-two wounded, five of whom survived the action but a few hours.

This action, so far from daunting the bold and resolute Captain Church, seemed to inspire him with additional bravery. Unwilling that any of the enemy should escape, he boldly led his men into an almost impenetrable forest, into which those who survived the action had fled. The Indians, perceiving the English approaching, concealed themselves from their view by lying flat on their bellies, in which situation they remained until the English had advanced within a few rods of them, when, unperceived, each fixing upon his man, they discharged a shower of arrows among them. This unexpected check threw the English into confusion, which the Indians perceiving rushed

furiously upon them with their knives and tomahawks, shouting horribly. The English, their cavalry being unable to afford them assistance, were now in a very disagreeable situation, the trees being so very large as to render it difficult to use their fire-arms with any effect, and they were very soon so encompassed by the savages, as to render almost every effort to defend themselves useless. Of sixty-four who entered the swamp, but seventeen escaped, among whom very fortunately was their valuable leader, Captain Church.

The English, finding that they could neither bring their enemies to action in open field, nor engage them with any success in the forest in which they were lodged, returned home with the exception of three companies, who were stationed by Major Savage near the borders of a swamp, into which it was strongly suspected that Philip with a number of his tribe had fled. This swamp was two miles in length, and to the English inaccessible. Philip, who had been watching the motions of his enemies, perceiving a great part march off, conjectured that their object was to obtain a reinforcement. Impressed with this belief, he resolved to improve the first opportunity to escape with a few chosen men, by water, which he with little difficulty effected the succeeding night, taking advantage of a low tide. The enemy were, soon after their escape, discovered and pursued by the inhabitants of Rehoboth, accompanied by a party of the Mohegans, who had volunteered their services against Philip.

The Rehoboth militia came up with the rear of the enemy about sunset, and killed twelve of them, without sustaining any loss on their part; night prevented their engaging the whole force of Philip; but early the succeeding morning, they continued the pursuit. The Indians had, however, fled with such precipitancy, that it was found impossible to overtake them. They bent their course to the westward, exhorting the different tribes through which they passed to take up arms against the English.

XVI.

SLAUGHTER OF THE INHABITANTS OF BROOKFIELD.—DESPERATE ENGAGEMENT.—ATTACK ON SPRINGFIELD.

THE United Colonies became now greatly alarmed at the hostile views and rapid strides of Philip. The General Court was constantly sitting; and endeavoring to plan means to cut



ATTACK ON BROOKFIELD. — Page 49.



ATTACK ON CAPT. BEERS, AT BLOODY BROOK, DEERFIELD.

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him off before he should have an opportunity to corrupt the minds of too many of his countrymen.

While the Court was thus employed, information was received that Philip had arrived in the neighborhood of Brookfield, situated about sixty-five miles from Boston, and that a number of its inhabitants had been inhumanly butchered by his adherents. Orders were immediately thereupon issued for the raising of ten companies of foot and horse, to be despatched to the relief of the unfortunate inhabitants of Brookfield; but before they could reach that place, Philip and his party had entered the town, and indiscriminately put to death almost every inhabitant which it contained, the few that escaped having taken the precaution, previous to the attack, to assemble together in one house, which they strongly fortified. This house was furiously attacked by the savages and several times set on fire, and the besieged were on the point of surrendering, when Major Willard happily arrived to their relief. Between the English and the Indians, a desperate engagement now ensued; the former, by the express command of their officers, gave no quarter, but in a very heroic manner rushed upon the savages with clubbed muskets. The action continued until near sunset, when the few Indians that remained alive sought shelter in the neighboring woods.

The Governor and Council, on learning the fate of the unfortunate inhabitants of Brookfield, despatched a reinforcement of three companies of cavalry to Major Willard, and ordered the like number to be sent him from Hartford, in Connecticut colony, with which he was directed to pursue Philip with fire and sword, to whatever part of the country he should resort.

It being discovered that a part of Philip's forces had fled to Hatfield, two companies of English, under the command of Captains Lothrop and Beers, were sent in pursuit of them, who within about three miles of Hatfield overtook and attacked them; but the force of the English being greatly inferior to that of the enemy, the former were defeated and driven back upon the main body; which enabled the enemy, who had in the late engagement been detached from the main body, to join Philip. On the 13th of September, information was received by Major Willard, that the enemy had successfully attacked and defeated the troops under the command of Captain Lothrop; that they were ambushed and unexpectedly surrounded by one thousand of the enemy, to whom they all except three fell a sacrifice. The defeat of Captain Lothrop took place in the neighborhood of Deerfield; for

the defence of which there was an English garrison, which the Indians were about to attack when Major Willard happily arrived; on the approach of whom the Indians fled.

On the 10th of October following, a party of Philip's Indians successfully assaulted the town of Springfield, which they pillaged and set fire to, killing about forty of the inhabitants. On the 14th, they assaulted the town of Hatfield, in which two companies, under the command of Captains Mosely and Appleton, were stationed. The enemy continued the attack about two hours; when, finding the fire of the English too warm for them, they fled, leaving a number of their party behind them dead.

XVII.

TERRIBLE SWAMP FIGHT WITH PHILIP'S MEN.—FOUR THOUSAND KILLED.—THREE THOUSAND WIGWAMS DESTROYED.

PHILIP, now finding himself closely pursued by a large and formidable body of the English, deemed it prudent to bend his course towards his old place of residence; there to remain until the ensuing spring.

But the commissioners of the United Colonies, duly reflecting on the deplorable situation of their defenceless brethren throughout the country, aware that there were then much greater numbers of their savage enemies embodied than at any former period, who, if suffered peaceably to retire into winter quarters, might prove too powerful for them the spring ensuing, resolved to attack the whole force under Philip in their winter encampment; for the purpose of which every Englishman capable of bearing arms was commanded, by proclamation of the Governor, to hold himself in readiness to march at the shortest notice. The 10th of December was the day appointed by the commissioners on which the decisive blow was to be given. On the 7th of December the combined forces commenced their march for the head-quarters of the enemy. At this inclement season, it was with the utmost difficulty the troops were enabled to penetrate through a wild and pathless wood. On the morning of the 9th, having travelled all the preceding night, they arrived at the border of an extensive swamp, in which they were informed by their guides, that the enemy were encamped to the number of four thousand. The English, after partaking of a little refreshment, formed for battle.

It was discovered by an Indian sent for the purpose, that in the centre of the swamp they had built a very strong fort, of such a construction, that it was with difficulty more than one person could enter it at a time. About ten o'clock, A. M., the English with the sound of a trumpet entered the swamp, and when within about fifty rods of their fort, were met and attacked by the enemy. The Indians in the usual manner, shouting and howling like beasts of prey, commenced the attack with savage fury; but with a hideous noise the English were not intimidated; charging them with great bravery, the enemy were soon glad to seek shelter within the walls of their fort. The English having closely pressed upon the enemy, as they retreated, now found themselves in a very disagreeable situation; exposed to the fire of the Indians, who were covered by a high breastwork, they were not even enabled to act on the defensive. At this critical juncture the lion-hearted Oneco, son of Uncas, with the assent of General Winslow, offered to scale the walls of the fort, which being approved of by the English commanders, Oneco, with about sixty picked men, in an instant ascended to the top of the fort; where, having a fair chance at the enemy, they hurled their tomahawks and discharged their arrows with such success among them, as in a very short time to throw them into the utmost confusion. Those who attempted to escape from the fort were instantly cut in pieces by the troops without. The enemy finding themselves thus hemmed in, attacked on all sides, in the most abject terms begged for quarter, which was denied them by the English. A great proportion of the troops being now mounted on the walls of the fort, they had nothing to do but load and fire; the enemy being penned up and huddled together in such a manner that there was scarcely a shot lost. This bloody contest was of near six hours' continuance, when the English, perceiving the fort filled with naught but dead or such as were mortally wounded of the enemy, closed the bloody conflict.

The scene of action at this instant was indeed such as could not fail to shock the stoutest heart. The huge logs, of which the fort was constructed, were completely crimsoned with the blood of the enemy, while the surrounding woods resounded with the dying groans of the wounded. The number slain of the enemy in this severe engagement could not be ascertained; it was, however, immense. Of four thousand it was supposed to contain at the commencement of the action, not two hundred escaped among whom, unfortunately, was the treacherous Philip.

After the close of this desperate action, the troops, having destroyed all in their power, left the enemy's ground, and, carrying about three hundred wounded men, marched back, the distance of sixteen miles, to head-quarters. The night proved cold and stormy, the snow fell deep, and it was not until midnight or after that the troops were enabled to reach their place of destination. Many of the wounded, who probably otherwise might have recovered, perished with the cold and inconvenience of a march so fatiguing.

Although the destruction of so great a number of the enemy was considered of the greatest importance to the English, yet it proved a conquest dearly bought. It was obtained at the expense of the lives of a great number of privates, and a great proportion of their most valuable officers; among whom were the Captains Davenport, Gardener, Johnson, Siely, and Marshall.

The Massachusetts and Plymouth forces kept the field the greater part of the winter. They ranged the country, took a number of prisoners, destroyed about three thousand wigwams, but achieved nothing brilliant or decisive.

XVIII.

ATTACK ON LANCASTER.—BATTLES.—DEFEAT OF THE INDIANS.

THE Nipnet and Narragansett tribes being by the late action nearly exterminated, the few who survived, by the direction of Philip, fled in small parties to different parts of the country, improving every opportunity that presented to revenge the untimely fate of their brethren. On the 10th of February, 1678, about one hundred of them surprised the inhabitants of Lancaster (Mass.), a part of whom had the day previous resorted to the dwelling of the Rev. Mr. Rowland, as a place of greater safety; this, however, being constructed of dry logs, was set on fire by the Indians, and the unfortunate English within being unable to extinguish it, they fell victims to the devouring flames. On the 21st, the enemy attacked the inhabitants of Medfield; twelve of whom they killed, and the remainder made captive.

On the 3d of March, the Indians still continuing their depredations, two companies of cavalry, under the command of Captain Pierce and Captain Watkins, were ordered out for the purpose of affording protection to the defenceless inhabitants of towns most exposed to their incursions. On the 5th they

marched to Paatuxet, near where there was a considerable body of Indians encamped, whom on the morning of the 6th they fell in with and attacked. The enemy at first appeared but few in number; but these were only employed to decoy the English, who on a sudden found themselves surrounded by near five hundred Indians, who with their tomahawks and scalping-knives, rushing furiously upon them, threatened them with instant destruction. The English, now acting on the defensive, although surrounded by five times their number, fought with their usual spirit, and were resolved to sell their lives at as dear a rate as possible. They were very soon, however, compelled to yield to the superior force of their savage enemies. Only five escaped! This victory, although of considerable importance to the savages, cost them a number of their bravest warriors, ninety-three of whom were the succeeding day found dead upon the field of action. There were in this engagement about twenty friendly Indians with the English, who fought like desperadoes. One of them, observing Captain Pierce unable to stand, in consequence of the many wounds he had received, for nearly two hours bravely defended him. When, perceiving his own imminent danger, and that he could afford the Captain no farther assistance, by blacking his face as the enemy had done, he escaped unnoticed.

On the 25th of March, a party of Indians attacked and burnt the towns of Weymouth and Warwick, killing a great number of the inhabitants. On the 10th of April following, they pillaged and burnt Rehoboth and Providence.

On the 1st of May, a company of English, and one hundred and fifty Mohegans, under the command of Captain George Dennison, were sent in pursuit of a body of the enemy, commanded by a son of Miantinomi. On the 8th of May they met with and attacked them near Groton. The Indians, apparently determined on victory or death, displayed an unusual degree of courage; but the English and Mohegans proved too strong for them, and, after destroying a greater part with their muskets and tomahawks, drove the remainder into a neighboring river, where they soon perished.

On the 23d, Cononchet, sachem of the few scattered remains of the Narragansetts, proposed to his council that the lands bordering on Connecticut River not inhabited by the English should be by them planted with corn, for their future subsistence; which being approved of by the latter, two hundred of

the Narragansetts were despatched for this purpose. The Governor, being apprised of their intentions, despatched three companies of cavalry to intercept them. About one hundred of the Mohegans, under the command of Oneco, accompanied the English. The enemy were commanded by Cononchet in person, who first proceeded to Seekonk, to procure seed corn. It was in the neighborhood of this place that they were first met with and engaged by the English and Mohegans. The enemy, with becoming bravery, for a long time withstood the attack; but being but poorly provided with weapons, they were at length overpowered and compelled to yield to the superior power of their enemies. In the midst of the action, Cononchet, fearful of the issue, deserted his men, and attempted to seek shelter in a neighboring wood; but being recognized by the Mohegans, they pursued him. Cononchet perceiving himself nearly overtaken by his pursuers, to facilitate his flight, first threw away his blanket, then his silver-laced coat, with which he had been presented by the English a few weeks previous; but finding that he could not escape from his pursuers by flight, he plunged into a river, where he was followed by half a dozen resolute Mohegans, who laid hold of him, forced him under water, and there held him until drowned. The loss of the English and Mohegans in this engagement was twelve killed and twenty-one wounded; that of the enemy was forty-three killed and about eighty wounded.

XIX.

ENGAGEMENTS AT GROTON AND WESTFIELD.—HEROIC WOMAN.

ONE of the friendly Indians, returning to Boston on the 10th of July, reported as follows: "That a large number of Indians were embodied in a wood near Lancaster, which village they intended to attack and burn in a few days; that they had been encouraged to continue the war with the English, by Frenchmen from the 'great lake,' who had supplied them with fire-arms and ammunition."

On the receipt of this important information, the Governor despatched three companies of cavalry, under the command of Major Savage, for the defence of Lancaster, who unfortunately, by mistaking the road, fell into an ambush of about three hundred and fifty Indians, by whom they were instantly surrounded. The English exhibited great presence of mind, and repelled the

attack of the enemy in a very heroic manner. The savages being, however, well provided with fire-arms, soon gained a complete victory over the English, whose loss in this unfortunate engagement was fifty-four. The number of killed and wounded of the enemy could not be ascertained, as they remained masters of the field of action.

On the 15th, a severe engagement took place between a company of English cavalry, and about one hundred of the enemy, near Groton. The latter were not perceived by the former until they were within a few paces of them, the Indians having concealed themselves in the bushes, when suddenly issuing forth with a hideous yell, the cavalry were thrown into confusion, but instantly forming and charging the enemy with great spirit, they fled in every direction. The cavalry, in attempting to pursue them, were once more ambushed. The contest now became close and severe; the Indians, having succeeded in decoying the English into a thick wood, attacked them with fury and success. The commander of the English being killed, every man sought his own safety. Of ninety-five, of which the company was composed, but twelve escaped. The loss of the enemy was, however, supposed to be much greater.

On the 12th of August, a party of Indians entered the town of Westfield, killed and took several of the inhabitants prisoners, and burnt several houses. Three of them soon after made their appearance at a house near said town, and fired at the man at his door, who fell. They ran towards him, and one of them stopping to scalp him, he was assaulted by the man's wife with a stroke from a large hatchet, which went so completely into his body, that by three different efforts she could not disengage it, and the Indian made off with it sticking in him. A second Indian also made an attempt, when she by a well-directed stroke with a stick she had got, laid him on the ground. The third then ran, and the other, as soon as he had recovered his feet, followed the example; on which the woman took her husband in her arms and carried him into the house, when he soon after recovered.

XX.

ATTACK ON SPRINGFIELD.—INDIAN BARBARITIES.—DESTRUCTION OF CAPTAIN WADSWORTH AND HIS COMPANY AT SUDBURY.

ON the 20th, a number of the inhabitants of Springfield were attacked by a party of Indians as they were returning from divine service; and although the former were provided with fire-arms, the enemy succeeded in making prisoners of two women and several children, whom they soon after tomahawked and scalped; in which situation they were the succeeding day found by a party of the English sent in pursuit of the enemy. One of the unfortunate women, although shockingly mangled, was found still alive, and so far recovered as to be enabled to speak. She gave the following account of the fate of her unfortunate companions: That they were first severely bound with cords; that the Indians soon after built a fire, and regaled themselves with what they had previously stolen from the English, that soon after, a warm dispute arose between them relative to the prisoners, each claiming the women for their squaws (or wives); that they at length proceeded to blows, and after beating each other for some time with clubs, it was agreed by both parties, to prevent further altercation, that the women should be put to death, which agreement, as she supposed, was carried immediately into execution. The unfortunate narrator received a severe blow on the head, which brought her senseless to the ground, and while in this situation was scalped and left for dead by her savage enemies.

The inhabitants of Sudbury, with a company of soldiers under the command of Lieutenant Jacobs, of Marlborough, alarmed at the near approach of the enemy, who to the number of about two hundred were encamped near that place, resolved to attack them at night; accordingly, on the 6th of September, they marched within view of them, and at night, as they lay extended around a large fire, approached them unperceived within gun-shot, when they gave them the contents of their muskets. Many of those who remained unhurt, being suddenly aroused from their slumbers by the yells of their wounded brethren, and imagining that they were completely surrounded by the English, whom the darkness of the night prevented their seeing, threw themselves into the fire which they had enkindled, and there

perished; but a few, if any, escaped. In this attack the English sustained no loss.

On the 25th, a considerable body of the enemy attacked the inhabitants of Marlborough, many of whom they killed, and set fire to their houses. A company of English, who had been ordered from Concord for the defence of this place, were cut off by the savages, and totally destroyed. Two other companies, despatched from Boston for the like purpose, met with the same fate. It appeared that the Governor, on learning the situation of the unfortunate inhabitants of Marlborough, despatched to their relief two companies, under the command of Captains Wadsworth and Smith, who, before they arrived at their place of destination, were informed that the savages had quit Marlborough and proceeded for Sudbury, twelve miles distant, which induced the English to alter their course and proceed immediately for the latter place. Of this it appeared that the enemy had been apprised by their runners, and had laid a plan to cut them off ere they should reach Sudbury, which they in the following manner completely effected. Learning the course which the English would take, they within a few rods thereof stationed fifty or sixty of their number in open field, who were ordered to retreat into a neighboring thicket as soon as discovered and pursued by the English. In this thicket, the remainder of the Indians, to the number of about three hundred, concealed themselves, by lying prostrate on their bellies. The English on their arrival, espying the Indians in the field, and presuming them to be but few in number, pursued and attacked them, who very soon retreated to the fatal spot where their treacherous brethren lay concealed, and prepared to give their pursuers a warm, if not fatal reception. Here they were closely pursued by the English, who too late discovered the fatal snare which had been laid for them. In an instant they were completely surrounded, and attacked on all sides by the savages. The English for several hours bravely defended themselves, but at length were borne down by numbers far superior to their own. Thus fell the brave Captain Wadsworth and Captain Smith, as well as most of the troops under their command. A pile of stones with a simple inscription on slate marks this fatal spot.*

* A beautiful monument, commemorative of this event, has been recently erected on this spot, at an expense of one thousand dollars, — five hundred dollars of which was appropriated by the State, the balance by the town of Sudbury. In preparing the ground for the erection of the monument, three large boxes of bones were disinterred.

XXI.

**INHABITANTS OF WOBURN AND CHELMSFORD KUT TO DEATH
— CAPTURE AND ESCAPE OF A YOUNG WOMAN AT CONCORD.
— MORE BATTLES.**

THE Indians bordering on the river Merrimack, feeling themselves injured by the encroachments of the English, once more resumed the bloody tomahawk, which had been buried for a number of years. On the 1st of November, they, in a considerable body, entered the villages of Chelmsford and Woburn, and, taking advantage of their weak state, indiscriminately put to death every inhabitant they contained, sparing not the infant at the breast. On the 9th, they burnt the house of Mr. Ezra Eames, near Concord, killed his wife, threw her body into the flames, and made captives of her children. On the 15th, they took prisoner a young woman, sixteen years of age, who had been placed by the family with whom she resided on a hill in the neighborhood of their dwelling, to watch the motions of the enemy. The account which the young woman gave of her capture and escape was as follows: That "on the morning of her capture, the family having been informed that a party of Indians had the day previous been discovered in a neighboring wood, she, by their request, ascended a hill near the house, to watch their motions, and alarm the family if seen approaching the house: that about noon she discovered a number of them ascending the hill, in great haste: that she immediately thereupon attempted to evade them by retiring into a thicket; but that the Indians, who it appeared had before observed her, found her after a few moments' search, and compelled her to accompany them to their settlement, about forty miles distant. It was here they gave her to understand she must remain and become their squaw, and dress and cook their victuals: that she remained with them about three weeks; during which time they made several expeditions against the English, and returned with a great number of human scalps: that on the night of the 6th of December they returned with six horses, which they had stolen from the English, which having turned into a small inclosure, they set out on a new expedition: that she viewed this as a favorable opportunity to escape; to effect which, she caught and mounted one of the horses, and making use of a strip of bark as a bridle, she penetrated a wild and pathless wood, and arrived at Concord at seven o'clock the morning succeeding, having travelled all the

preceding night, to evade the pursuit of the enemy." In like manner did one of the children of Mr. Eames (of whose capture mention is made in the preceding page) escape from the Indians; although but ten years of age, he travelled sixty miles through an uninhabited wood, subsisting on acorns!

On the 12th of December, a party of Indians attacked and killed several of the inhabitants of Bradford. The Governor of Massachusetts colony, for the protection of the defenceless inhabitants bordering on the Merrimack, ordered the raising and equipping of four companies of cavalry, to the command of which were appointed Captains Sill, Holyoke, Cutler, and Prentice.

On the 23d, the above troops proceeded for the borders of the Merrimack, and on the 26th fell in with a considerable body of the enemy, whom they engaged and completely defeated. On the 4th of January, 1679, Captain Prentice, detached from the main body, fell in with and engaged about one hundred of the enemy in the neighborhood of Amherst, whom he likewise defeated, but with considerable loss on his part.

On the 6th, a son of the brave Captain Holyoke, of Springfield, received information that a number of the enemy in small bodies were skulking about in the woods bordering on that town, and with twenty resolute young men marched out to attack them. Falling in with a considerable body of them, an engagement ensued, which, though severe, terminated at length in favor of the English. The Indians being furnished with muskets, were unwilling to give ground, and would probably have remained masters of the field of action, had not the English received a reinforcement, which put them to flight. The loss of the English in the engagement was five killed and nine wounded, and that of the enemy twenty-three killed and between thirty and forty wounded.

The savages were no longer confined to any particular tribe or place, but in parties from fifty to one hundred were scattered all over the thinly inhabited parts of New England. A considerable body of them were yet in the neighborhood of Hadley, Deerfield, and Northampton, where they were continually committing their wanton acts of barbarity. Several of the towns above mentioned, duly reflecting on the danger to which they and their families were exposed, formed themselves into several companies and made choice of their commanders. On the 4th of February, receiving information that there were near two

hundred Indians embodied in a swamp in the neighborhood of Deerfield, the above-mentioned force marched to attack them. Arriving within view of them about daybreak, they discovered them in a profound sleep, stretched out upon the ground around their fire. The cavalry immediately thereupon dismounted, and after forming themselves, approached them within pistol-shot before they were discovered by the enemy; who, being suddenly aroused from their slumber, and astonished at the unexpected appearance of so many of their enemies, fell an easy prey to the English, who, without the loss of a man, killed one hundred and twenty of them; the remainder, as the only means of escape, having plunged into a river, where probably many of them perished.

XXII.

SEVERE BATTLES.—MONSTROUS CRUELITIES.—HEROISM OF A FEW WOMEN.

ALTHOUGH the English achieved this action without any loss on their part, they were on their return unhappily ambushed by about four hundred of the enemy. The English having expended all their ammunition in the late engagement, and being much fatigued, were now in turn likely to fall an easy prey to their enemies, who with their bloody knives and tomahawks for the space of an hour attacked them with the greatest success. Not one of the English, it is probable, would have survived this bold and unexpected attack of the enemy, had it not been for the presence of mind of their brave commander, Captain Holyoke, who by a stratagem succeeded in saving a party of them. Captain Holyoke had his horse killed under him, and at one time was attacked by five of the enemy, whom he beat off with his cutlass. The loss of the English in this unfortunate action was fifty-one killed and eighty-four wounded, and many of the latter survived the action but a few days. The defeat and destruction of the English in this engagement was much to be lamented, as among the slain were the heads of several families, who had volunteered their services in defence of their infant settlements.

On the 10th, several hundreds of the enemy, encouraged by their late success, appeared before Hatfield, and fired several dwelling-houses without the fortification of the town. The inhabitants of Hadley being seasonably apprised of the situation of their brethren at Hatfield, a number of them volunteered

their services and marched to their relief. The Indians, as they were accustomed to do on the approach of the English, lay flat on their bellies until the latter had advanced within a bow-shot, when, partly rising, they discharged a shower of arrows among them, which wounded several of the English; but they, having wisely reserved their fire, now in turn levelled their pieces with the best effect, before the savages had time to recover their legs, about thirty of whom were instantly despatched and the remainder dispersed.

On the 15th of February, the Governor of Massachusetts colony, receiving information that the Indians were collecting in great numbers under the immediate guidance of Philip, near Brookfield, despatched Captain Henchman, with fifty men, to dislodge them; who, proceeding first to Hadley, was joined by a company of cavalry from Hartford. On the 20th, they discovered and attacked a party of Indians near Lancaster. They killed fifty of them, and took between fifty and sixty of their squaws and children prisoners. Captain Henchman, on his way to Brookfield, discovered the dead bodies of several of his countrymen half consumed by fire, who, it appeared, had a few days previous fallen victims to the barbarity of the savages.

The scattered remains of the enemy being now so completely harassed and driven from place to place by the English, a number of them resorted to the western country, then inhabited by the Mohawks; but the latter being on friendly terms with the English and Dutch, who were settling among them, were unwilling to harbor their enemies, and consequently attacked a considerable body of them on the 6th of March. The engagement was a severe one; the fugitive Indians, being furnished with fire-arms, repelled the attack of the Mohawks with a becoming spirit, but were at length overpowered and completely defeated. The loss on both sides was very great.

On the 20th, the Indians took a Mr. Willet prisoner, near Swanzev, and after cutting off his nose and ears, set him at liberty. On the 22d, a negro man, who had been for several months a prisoner among the savages, escaped from them and returned to the English, to whom he gave the following information, to wit: That the enemy were concerting a plan to attack Taunton and the villages adjacent; that for this purpose there were then embodied near Worcester one thousand of them, at the head of whom was Philip, and near one hundred of them were furnished with fire-arms; that, a few days previous to his escape, a scout-

ing party arrived, and brought in with them two prisoners of war and three human scalps. To frustrate the intention of the enemy the Governor of Massachusetts colony despatched three companies of cavalry for the defence of the English. Connecticut colony, although but little troubled with the enemy since the destruction of the Pequots, were not unwilling to afford their brethren all the assistance possible in a protracted and bloody war with a common enemy. They accordingly furnished three companies of cavalry, who, under the command of the experienced Major Talcott, on the 5th of April proceeded to the westward in search of the enemy. On the 11th they fell in with, attacked, and defeated a considerable body of them. Apparently by the special direction of Divine Providence, Major Talcott arrived in the neighborhood of Hadley in time to preserve the town, and save its inhabitants from total destruction. The savages, to the number of five hundred, were on the eve of commencing an attack, when they were met by the Major, with the troops under his command. This unexpected relief animating the few inhabitants which the town contained, they hastened to the assistance of the cavalry, who at this moment were seriously engaged with the whole body of the enemy. The savages having gained some signal advantages, victory for a considerable length of time appeared likely to decide in their favor. Fortunately, the inhabitants of Hadley having for their defence a few weeks previous procured from Boston an eight-pounder, it was at this critical period loaded by the women, and being mounted, was by them conveyed to the English, which being charged with small shot, nails, &c., was by the latter discharged with the best effect upon the enemy, who immediately thereupon fled in every direction. Thus it was that the English in a great measure owed the preservation of their lives to the unexampled heroism of a few women.

XXIII.

THANKSGIVING INSTITUTED. — BATTLES. — SAVAGE RITES. —
PHILIP'S SQUAW TAKEN PRISONER. — FAMINE.

THE Governor and Council of the United Colonies, taking under serious consideration the miraculous escape of the inhabitants of Hadley from total destruction, and the recent success of the arms of the English in various parts of the country, appointed the 27th day of August, 1679, to be observed throughout

the colonies as a day of public thanksgiving and praise to Almighty God. This, it may be well to observe, was the commencement of an annual custom of our forefathers, which to the present day is so religiously observed by their descendants throughout the New England States.

On the 3d of September the Connecticut troops, under the command of Major Talcott and Captains Dennison and Newbury, proceeded to Narragansett in quest of the enemy, who, to the number of three hundred, had been discovered in a piece of woods. The English were accompanied by their faithful friend Oneco, with one hundred Mohegans under his command. In the evening of the 5th, they discovered the savages encamped at the foot of a steep hill, on which Major Talcott made arrangements for an attack. The Mohegans were ordered by a circuitous route to gain the summit of the hill to prevent the flight of the enemy. Two companies of cavalry were ordered to flank them on the right and left, while Major Talcott with a company of foot stationed himself in the rear. Having thus disposed of his forces, a signal was given by the Major for the Mohegans to commence the attack, which they did, and with such spirit, accompanied by the savage yells, that had the enemy been renowned for their valor, they must have been to the highest degree appalled at so unexpected an onset. After contending a few moments with the Mohegans, the enemy were attacked on the right and left by the cavalry, who with their cutlasses made great havoc among them; they were, however, unwilling to give ground till they had lost nearly one half of their number, when they attempted a flight to a swamp in their rear; but here they were met by Major Talcott, with the company of foot, who gave them so warm a reception, that they once more fell back upon the Mohegans, by whom they were very soon overpowered, and would have been totally destroyed, had not Major Talcott humanely interfered in their behalf, and made prisoners of the few that remained alive. Among the latter was the leader, a squaw, commonly termed the Queen of Narragansett, and also an active young fellow who begged to be delivered into the hands of the Mohegans, that they might put him to death in their own way, and sacrifice him to their cruel genius of revenge, in which they so much delighted. The English, although naturally averse to acts of savage barbarity were not in this instance unwilling to comply with the unnatural request of the prisoner, as it appeared that he had in the

presence of the Mohegans exultingly boasted of having killed nineteen English with his gun, since the commencement of the war, and after loading it for the twentieth (there being no more of the latter within reach) he levelled at a Mohegan, whom he killed, which completing his number, he was willing to die by their hands. The Mohegans accordingly began to prepare for the tragical event. Forming themselves into a circle, admitting as many of the English as were disposed to witness their savage proceedings, the prisoner was placed in the centre. When one of the Mohegans, who in the late engagement had lost a son, with a knife cut off the prisoner's ears! then his nose! and then the fingers of each hand! and, after the lapse of a few moments, dug out his eyes and filled their sockets with hot embers! Although the few English present were overcome with the view of a scene so shocking to humanity, yet the prisoner, so far from bewailing his fate, seemed to surpass his tormentors in expressions of joy. When nearly exhausted with the loss of blood, and unable to stand, his executioner closed the tragic scene by beating out his brains with a tomahawk!

The few Indians that now remained in the neighborhood of Plymouth colony being in a state of starvation, they surrendered themselves prisoners to the English; one of whom, being recognized as the person who had a few days previous inhumanly murdered the daughter of a Mr. Clarke, was by order of the Governor publicly executed. The remainder were retained and treated as prisoners, who served as guides; twenty more of the enemy were on the succeeding day surprised and taken prisoners by the English.

The troops under the command of Major Bradford, and Captains Mosely and Brattle, on the 15th of September, surprised and took one hundred and fifty of the enemy prisoners near Pautuxet, among whom was the squaw of the celebrated Philip; and on the day succeeding, learning that the enemy in considerable bodies were roving about in the woods near Dedham, Major Bradford despatched Captain Brattle with fifty men to attack them; who, the day following, fell in with and engaged about one hundred of them. As hatchets were the only weapons with which they were provided, they made but a feeble defence, and were soon overpowered by the English, who took seventy-four of them prisoners; the remainder having fallen in the action. The above party was commanded by a bloodthirsty sachem, called Pompham, renowned for his bodily

strength, which exceeded that of any of his countrymen ever met with. He bravely defended himself to the last; being wounded in the breast, and unable to stand, he seized one of the soldiers while in the act of despatching him with the butt of his gun, and would have strangled him had he not been fortunately rescued by one of his comrades.

A general famine now prevailed among the enemy, in consequence of being deprived of an opportunity to plant their lands; numbers were daily compelled by hunger to surrender themselves prisoners to the English; among whom was a Nipnet sachem, accompanied by one hundred and eighty of his tribe.

XXIV.

THE GREAT SWAMP FIGHT.—FLIGHT AND DEATH OF KING PHILIP.

ON the 12th of October, Captain Church, with fifty soldiers and a few friendly Indians under his command, attacked and defeated a party of the enemy near Providence; and on the day following, conducted by Indian guides, discovered a considerable body of the enemy encamped in a swamp near Pomfret. A friendly Indian at first espying them, commanded them to surrender; but the enemy did not appear disposed to obey. Being sheltered by large trees, they first discharged their arrows among the English, and then, with a terrible yell, attacked them with their long knives and tomahawks. The English, meeting with a much warmer reception than what they expected, gave ground, but being rallied by their old and experienced commander, Captain Church, they rushed upon them with such impetuosity, that the enemy were thrown into confusion and dislodged from their coverts. The English had seven men killed and fourteen wounded; among the latter was their brave commander, who received an arrow through his left arm. The loss of the enemy was thirty-two killed and between sixty and seventy wounded.

On the 20th, information was forwarded to the Governor and Council, that the famous Philip, who had been for a long time skulking about in the woods near Mount Hope, much disheartened by the ill-success of his countrymen, was the morning preceding discovered in a swamp near that place, attended by about ninety Seaconet Indians; on which the brave Captain Church, with his little band of invincibles, was immediately despatched

in pursuit of him. Captain Church was accompanied as usual by a number of Mohegans, and a few friendly Seaconet Indians. On the 27th, they arrived in the neighborhood of the swamp, near the border of which he stationed several of the Mohegans, and a few friendly Seaconet Indians, to intercept Philip in case he should attempt an escape therefrom. Captain Church, at the head of his little band, now, with unconquerable resolution, plunged into the swamp, and, wading nearly to his waist in water, discovered and attacked the enemy. The Indians were nearly one hundred strong; but being unexpectedly attacked, they made no resistance, but fled in every direction. The inaccessible state of the swamp, however, prevented the English from pursuing them with success. Their dependence was now upon their friends stationed without. Nor did it appear that those faithful fellows suffered so good an opportunity to pass unimproved. The reports of their muskets convinced Captain Church they were doing their duty; in confirmation of which, he was very soon after presented with the head of KING PHILIP.

Philip, it appeared, in attempting to fly from his pursuers, was recognized by one of the English, who had been stationed with the Mohegans to intercept him, and who levelled his piece at him; but the priming being unfortunately wet and preventing the discharge thereof, the cunning sachem would yet have escaped had not one of the brave sons of Uncas, at this instant, given him the contents of his musket. The ball went directly through his heart. Thus fell, by the hands of a faithful Mohegan, the famous Philip; who was the projector and instigator of a war, which not only proved the cause of his own destruction, but that of nearly all his tribe, one of the most numerous of any inhabiting New England.

It was at this important time, that the English were made witnesses of a remarkable instance of savage customs. Oneco, on learning that Philip had fallen by the hand of one of his tribe, urged that, agreeably to their custom, he had an undoubted right to the body, and a right to feast himself with a piece thereof! Which the English not objecting to, he deliberately drew his long knife from his girdle, and with it detached a piece of flesh from the bleeding body of Philip, of about one pound weight, which he broiled and eat; in the mean time declaring that "he had not for many moons eaten any thing with so good an appetite"! The head of King Philip was sent by Captain Church to Boston, to be presented to the Governor and Council as a valuable trophy.

XXV.

BATTLES WITH THE KENNEBEC AND AMOSCOGGIN TRIBES.

THE few hostile Indians that now remained within the United Colonies, conscious that, if so fortunate as to evade the vigilance of the English, they must soon fall victims to the prevailing famine, fled with their families to the westward. The English were disposed rather to facilitate than prevent their flight. Having been for a number of years engaged in a destructive and bloody war with them, they were willing that the few that remained alive should escape to a country so far distant, that there was no probability of their returning to resume the bloody tomahawk. Impressed with these ideas, and that the enemy was completely exterminated, they were about to bury the hatchet, and turn their attention to agricultural pursuits; when by an express they were informed that the natives in the eastern part of the country (Province of Maine) had unprovokedly attacked and killed a considerable number of the English in that quarter.

To quench the flames which appeared to be enkindling in the east, the Governor despatched four companies of cavalry to the relief of the unfortunate inhabitants. The enemy, who were of the Kennebec and Amoscooggin tribes, first attacked with unprecedented fury the defenceless inhabitants settled on Kennebec River, the most of whom were destroyed or dispersed by them.

On the 2d of November about seven hundred of the enemy attacked, with their accustomed fury (accompanied by their savage yells), the inhabitants of Newchewannick, an English settlement situated a few miles from the mouth of the river Kennebec. Before they had fully accomplished their hellish purpose, they were surprised by the troops sent from Boston, and a most bloody engagement now ensued. The Indians, encouraged by their numbers, repelled the attack of the English in so heroic a manner, that the latter were very soon thrown into disorder, and driven out of town, where they again formed, faced about, and in turn charged the enemy with unconquerable resolution. The contest now became close and severe. The savages, with their terrific yells, dexterously hurled their tomahawks among the English, while the latter, with as much dexterity, attacked and mowed them down with their cutlasses. Each were apparently determined on victory or death. The

English, at one moment, unable to withstand the impetuosity of the savages, would give ground; at the next, the latter, hard pushed by the cavalry, would fall back. Thus, for the space of two hours, did victory appear balancing between the two contending parties. The field of action was covered with the slain, while the adjacent woods resounded with the shrieks and groans of the wounded. At this critical juncture the English, when on the very point of surrendering, were providentially preserved by a stratagem. In the heat of the action Major Bradford despatched a company of cavalry by a circuitous route to attack the enemy; suspecting this to be a reinforcement of the English, they fled in every direction, leaving the English masters of the field. Thus, after two hours' hard fighting, did the English obtain a victory at the expense of the lives of more than half their number! Their killed and wounded amounted to ninety-nine! The loss of the enemy was not ascertained; it was, however, probably three times greater than that of the English.

X X V I.

ENGAGEMENT WITH THE ENEMY.—CAPTURE AND FLIGHT OF MR. BRACKET AND HIS FAMILY.—MURDER OF MR. WAKELY'S FAMILY.

THE day succeeding this bloody engagement, a lieutenant, with twelve men, was sent by the commander to the place of action, to bury the dead. When they were a few rods therefrom, they were suddenly attacked by about one hundred of the enemy who had lain in ambush. The lieutenant ordered his men to reserve their fire until they could discharge with the best effect upon the enemy, by whom they were soon surrounded and furiously attacked on all sides; the savages yelling horribly, brandishing their long knives in the air, yet crimsoned with the blood of their countrymen. The brave little band, however, remained firm and undaunted, and as the savages approached them, each taking proper aim, discharged with so good effect upon them, that the Indians, amazed at the instantaneous destruction of so many of their comrades, fled in every direction. The English sustained no loss.

On the 5th, the enemy successfully attacked the inhabitants of the village of Casco; thirty of whom they killed, and made prisoners the family of a Mr. Bracket, who on the 7th made their escape in the following manner. The Indians, on their re-

turn to their wigwams, learning that a detached party of their brethren had attacked with success, and plundered, the village of Arrowsick, to enjoy a share of the spoil hastened to join them, leaving the prisoners in the care of two old men and three squaws. Mr. Bracket, whose family consisted of himself, wife, three small children, and a negro lad, viewed this as a favorable opportunity to escape; to effect which he requested the lad to attempt an escape by flight. This, being uncommonly active, he easily effected. The plan of Mr. Bracket had now its desired effect; as the old men, pursuing the negro, left him and his family guarded only by three squaws, whom (being intoxicated) he soon despatched, and returned the day following with his family to Casco, where the negro lad had arrived some hours before.

On the 15th, the Indians attacked the dwelling-houses of a Captain Bonithon and Major Philips, situated on the east side of Casco River. Having seasonable notice of the hostile views of the enemy, the family of the former had resorted to the house of the latter as a place of greater safety, a few moments previous to the attack. The savages first communicated fire to the house of Captain Bonithon; they next proceeded furiously to attack the dwelling of Major Philips, in which there were about twenty persons, by whom it was most gallantly defended. The enemy had their leader and a number of their party killed by the fire of the English. Despairing of taking the house by assault, they adopted a new plan of communicating fire thereto. They procured a carriage, on which they erected a stage, in front of which was a barricade rendered bullet proof, to which long poles were attached nearly twenty feet in length, and to the ends were affixed every kind of combustible, such as birch rinds, straw, pitch-pine, &c. The Indians were sheltered by the barricade from the fire of the English, while they approached the walls of the house with their carriage. The English were now on the eve of despairing, when fortunately one of the wheels of the carriage, being brought in contact with a rock, was turned completely round, which exposed the whole body of Indians to their fire! This unexpected opportunity was improved with the greatest advantage by the English, who with a few rounds soon dispersed the enemy with no inconsiderable loss.

The day following, the Indians set fire to the house of a Mr. Wakely, whom with his whole family they murdered. A company of English, apprised of their dangerous situation, marched to their relief, but arrived too late to afford them assistance.

They found the house reduced to ashes; among which they found the mangled bodies of the unfortunate family half consumed by fire.

The savages, emboldened by their late success, on the 20th attacked a small settlement on the Piscataqua River, and succeeded in murdering a part, and carrying away the remainder of the inhabitants into captivity. As an instance of their wanton barbarity, it should be here mentioned, that, after tomahawking and scalping one of the unfortunate women of the above place, they bound to the dead body her little infant; in which situation it was the succeeding day discovered by the English, attempting to draw nourishment from its mother's breast.

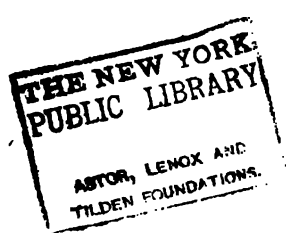
XXVII.

FINAL OVERTHROW OF THE SAVAGES. — TREATY OF PEACE CONCLUDED.

THE Governor and Council of the United Colonies, conceiving it their duty if possible to put a final stop to the ravages of the enemy in the east, and to prevent the further effusion of innocent blood, despatched Major Wallis and Major Bradford, with six companies under their command, to destroy, "root and branch," the common enemy. On the 1st of December they arrived in the neighborhood of Kennebeck, near which they were informed the main body of the enemy were encamped. On the morning of the 3d, about the break of day, they fell in with and attacked them. The enemy, who were about eight hundred strong, appeared disposed to maintain their ground. They fought with all the fury of savages, and even assailed the English from the tops of lofty trees, which they ascended for the purpose. They had but few fire-arms, but hurled their tomahawks with inconceivable exactness, and checked the progress of the cavalry with long spears. Victory for a long time remained doubtful. The ground being covered with snow greatly retarded the progress of the troops, who probably would have met with defeat had not a fresh company of infantry arrived in time to change the fortune of the day. These, having remained inactive as a body of reserve, the commander found himself under the necessity of calling to his aid. The enemy, disheartened at the unexpected arrival of the English, fled with precipitancy to the woods; but very few of them, however, escaped. More than



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two hundred of them remained dead on the field of battle, and double that number were mortally wounded. The loss of the English was fifty-five killed and ninety-nine wounded! This engagement, which proved a decisive one, was of the greatest importance to the English. The great and arduous work was now completed. The few remaining Indians that inhabited the eastern country now expressed a desire to bury the bloody hatchet and to make peace with the English. Their request was cheerfully complied with, and they continued ever after the faithful friends of the English.

XXVIII.

REV. JOHN ELIOT, THE GREAT INDIAN APOSTLE.—RELIGIOUS BELIEF OF THE INDIANS.

WHEN the English first arrived in America, the Indians had no times or places set apart for religious worship. The first settlers in New England were at great pains to introduce among them the habits of civilized life, and to instruct them in the Christian religion. A few years' intercourse with the Indians induced them to establish several good and natural regulations.

The Rev. John Eliot, of Roxbury, near Boston, who has been styled the great Indian Apostle, with much labor learned the Natick dialect of the Indian languages. He published an Indian Grammar and preached in Indian to several tribes, and in 1664 translated the Bible and several religious books into the Indian language. He relates several pertinent queries of the Indians respecting the Christian religion. Among others, whether Jesus Christ, the mediator or interpreter, could understand prayer in the Indian language. If the father be bad and the child good, why should God in the second commandment be offended with the child? How the Indians came to differ so much from the English in the knowledge of God and Jesus Christ, since they all sprang from one Father? Mr. Eliot was indefatigable in his labors, and travelled through all parts of Massachusetts and Plymouth Colonies as far as Cape Cod. The Colony had such a veneration for him, that, in an act of the General Assembly relating to Indians, they express themselves thus: "By the advice of the said magistrates and of Mr. Eliot."

Concerning the religion of the untaught natives of New England, they held to a plurality of deities, but after the arrival of the English supposed there were only three, because they saw peo-

ple of three kinds of complexions, viz. English, negroes, and themselves.

It was a notion pretty generally prevailing among them, that it was not the same God that made them who made us; but that they were created after the white people; and it is probable they supposed their God gained some special skill by seeing the white people made, and so made them better; for it is certain they looked upon themselves and their methods of living, which they say their God expressly prescribed for them, as vastly preferable to the white people and their methods.

With regard to a future state of existence, many of them imagined that the *chichung*, i. e. the shadow, or what survived the body, would at death go southward, and in an unknown but curious place would enjoy some kind of happiness, such as hunting, feasting, dancing, and the like. And what they supposed would contribute much to their happiness was, that they should there never be weary of those entertainments.

The natives of New England believed not only in a plurality of gods, who made and governed the several nations of the world, but they made deities of every thing they imagined to be great and powerful, beneficial, or hurtful to mankind; yet they conceived an Almighty Being, whom they called Kietchtau, who at first, according to their tradition, made a man and woman out of stone, but upon some dislike destroyed them again, and then made another couple out of a tree, from whom descended all the nations of the earth; but how they came to be scattered and dispersed into countries so remote from one another, they could not tell. They believed their supreme God to be a good being, and paid a sort of acknowledgment to him for plenty, victory, and other benefits.

The immortality of the soul was universally believed among them. When good men died, they said their souls went Kietchtau, where they met with their friends, and enjoyed all manner of pleasures; when the wicked died, they went to Kietchtau also, but were commanded to walk away, and so wander about in restless discontent and darkness for ever.

XXIX.

THE MURDER OF MISS M'CREA.

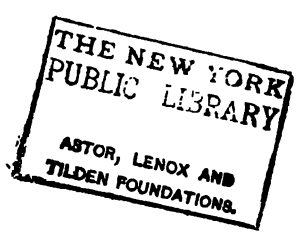
DURING the American Revolution, Britain had the inhumanity to reward these sons of barbarity for depredations committed upon those who were struggling in the cause of liberty. It was through their instigation that the hatchets of the Indians were made drunk with American blood! The widow's wail, the virgin's shriek, and infant's trembling cry, were music in their ears. In cold blood they sunk their cruel tomahawks into the defenceless head of a Miss M'Crea, a beautiful girl, who was that very day to have been married. The particulars of the inhuman transaction follow. Previous to the war between America and Great Britain, a British officer by the name of Jones, an accomplished young man, resided near Fort Edward. His visits thither became more frequent, when he found himself irresistibly drawn by charms of native worth and beauty. Miss M'Crea, whose memory is dear to humanity and true affection, was the object of his peregrinations. Mr. Jones had not taken the precaution necessary in hazardous love, but had manifested to the lady, by his constant attention, undissembled and ingenuous demeanor, that ardent affection which a susceptible heart compelled her implicitly to return. In this mutual interchange of passions, they suffered themselves to be transported on the ocean of imagination, till the unwelcome necessity of a separation cut off every springing hope. The war between Great Britain and America commenced. A removal from this happy spot was in consequence suggested to Mr. Jones as indispensable. Nothing could alleviate their mutual horror, but duty; nothing could allay their reciprocal grief, so as to render a separate corporeal existence tolerable, but solemn vows, with ideas of a future meeting. Mr. Jones repaired to Canada, where all intercourse with the Provincials was prohibited. Despair, which presented itself in aggravated colors when General Burgoyne's expedition through the States was fixed, succeeded to his former hopes. The British army being encamped about three miles from the fort, a descent was daily projected. Here Mr. Jones could not but recognize the spot on which rested all his joys. He figured to his mind the dread which his hostile approach must raise in the breast of her whom, of all others, he thought it his highest interest to

protect. In spite of arrest and commands to the contrary, he found means secretly to convey a letter, entreating her not to leave the town with the family; assuring her that, as soon as the fort should surrender, he would convey her to an asylum where they might safely consummate the nuptial ceremony. Far from discrediting the sincerity of him who could not deceive her, she heroically refused to follow the flying villagers. The remonstrances of a father, or the tearful entreaties of a mother and numerous friends, could not avail. It was enough that her lover was her friend. She considered herself protected by the love and voluntary assurances of her youthful hero. With the society of a servant-maid she impatiently waited the desired conveyance. Mr. Jones, finding the difficulty into which he was brought, at length, for want of better convoy, hired a party of twelve Indians to carry a letter to Miss M'Crea, with his own horse, for the purpose of carrying her to the place appointed. They set off, fired with the anticipation of their promised premium, which was to consist of a quantity of spirits, on condition that they brought her off in safety, which to an Indian was the most cogent stimulus the young lover could have named. Having arrived in view of her window, they sagaciously held up the letter, to prevent the fears and apprehensions which a savage knows he must excite in the sight of tenderness and sensibility. Her faith and expectations enabled her to divine the business of these ferocious missionaries, while her frightened maid uttered naught but shrieks and cries. They arrived, and by their signs convinced her from whom they had their instructions. If a doubt could remain, it was removed by the letter; it was from her lover. A lock of his hair, which it contained, presented his manly figure to her gloomy fancy.

Here, reader, guess what must have been her ecstasy. She indeed resolved to brave even the most horrid aspect which might appear between her and him whom she considered already hers, without a sigh. She did not for a moment hesitate to follow the wishes of her lover; and took her journey with these bloody messengers, expecting very soon to be shielded in the arms of legitimate affection. A short distance only then seemed to separate two of the happiest of mortals. Alas, how soon are the most brilliant pictures of felicity defaced by the burning hand of affliction and woe! How swiftly are the halcyon dreams which lull the supine indolence of thought,



MURDER OF MISS M'CREA. — *Page 79.*



succeeded by the real pangs which are inflicted by a punishing Providence, or a persecuting foe!

Having risen the hill, at about equal distance from the camp and her former home, a second party of Indians, having heard of the captivating offer made by Mr. Jones, determined to avail themselves of the opportunity. The reward was the great object. A clashing of real and assumed rights was soon followed by a furious and bloody engagement, in which several were killed on each side. The commander of the first party, perceiving that naught but the lady's death could appease the fury of either, with a tomahawk deliberately knocked her from her horse, mangled her scalp from her beautiful temples, which he exultingly bore as a trophy of zeal to the expectant and anxious lover! Here, O disappointment, was thy sting! It was with the utmost difficulty that Mr. Jones could be kept from total delirium. His horror and indignation could not be appeased; his remorse for having risked his most valuable treasure in the hands of savages, drove him almost to madness. When the particulars of this melancholy event reached General Burgoyne, he ordered the survivors of both these parties to immediate execution.

XXX.

WONDERFUL ESCAPE OF THE DUSTAN FAMILY.

THE details of individual sufferings, which occurred during the Indian wars, were they faithfully recorded, would excite the sympathies of the most unfeeling bosom.

In an attack by a body of Indians on Haverhill, New Hampshire, in the winter of 1697, the concluding year of the war, a party of the assailants, burning with savage animosity, approached the house of a Mr. Dustan. Upon the first alarm, he flew from a neighboring field to his family, with the hope of hurrying them to a place of safety. Seven of his children he directed to flee, while he himself went to assist his wife, who was confined to the bed with an infant, a week old. But before she could leave her bed, the savages arrived.

In despair of rendering her assistance, Mr. Dustan flew to the door, mounted his horse, and determined, in his own mind, to snatch up and save the child which he loved the best. He followed in pursuit of his little flock, but, upon coming up to them, he found it impossible to make a selection. The eye of

the parent could see no one of the number that he could abandon to the knife of the savage. He determined, therefore, to meet his fate with them ; to defend and save them from their pursuers, or die by their side.

A body of Indians soon came up with him, and, from short distances, fired upon him and his little company. For more than a mile he continued to retreat, placing himself between his children and the fire of the savages ; and returning their shots with great spirit and success. At length he saw them all safely lodged from their bloody pursuers, in a distant house.

It is not easy to find a nobler instance of fortitude and courage, inspired by affection, than is exhibited in this instance. Let us ever cultivate the influence of those ties of kindred, which are capable of giving so generous and elevated a direction to our actions.

As Mr. Dustan quitted his house, a party of Indians entered it. Mrs. Dustan was in bed ; but they ordered her to rise, and, before she could completely dress herself, obliged her and the nurse, who had vainly endeavored to escape with the infant, to quit the house, which they plundered and set on fire.

In these distressing circumstances Mrs. Dustan began her march, with other captives, into the wilderness. The air was keen, and their path led alternately through snow and deep mud ; and her savage conductors delighted rather in the infliction of torment, than the alleviation of distress.

The company had proceeded but a short distance, when an Indian, thinking the infant an encumbrance, took it from the nurse's arms, and violently terminated its life. Such of the other captives as began to be weary, and incapable of proceeding, the Indians killed with their tomahawks. Feeble as Mrs. Dustan was, both she and her nurse sustained with wonderful energy the fatigue and misery attending a journey of one hundred and fifty miles.

On their arrival at the place of their destination, they found the wigwam of the savage, who claimed them as his personal property, to be inhabited by twelve Indians. In the ensuing April, this family set out, with their captives, for an Indian settlement still more remote. The captives were informed, that, on their arrival at the settlement, they must submit to be stripped, scourged, and run the gauntlet, between two files of Indians. This information carried distress to the minds of the captive women, and led them promptly to devise some means of escape.



ESCAPE OF THE DUSTAN FAMILY.— *Page 80.*

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TILDEN FOUNDATIONS.**

Early in the morning of the 31st, Mrs. Dustan awaking her nurse and another fellow-prisoner, they despatched ten of the twelve Indians while asleep. The other two escaped. The women then pursued their difficult and toilsome journey through the wilderness, and at length arrived in safety at Haverhill. Subsequently, they visited Boston, and received, at the hand of the General Court, a handsome consideration for their extraordinary sufferings and heroic conduct.

XXXI.

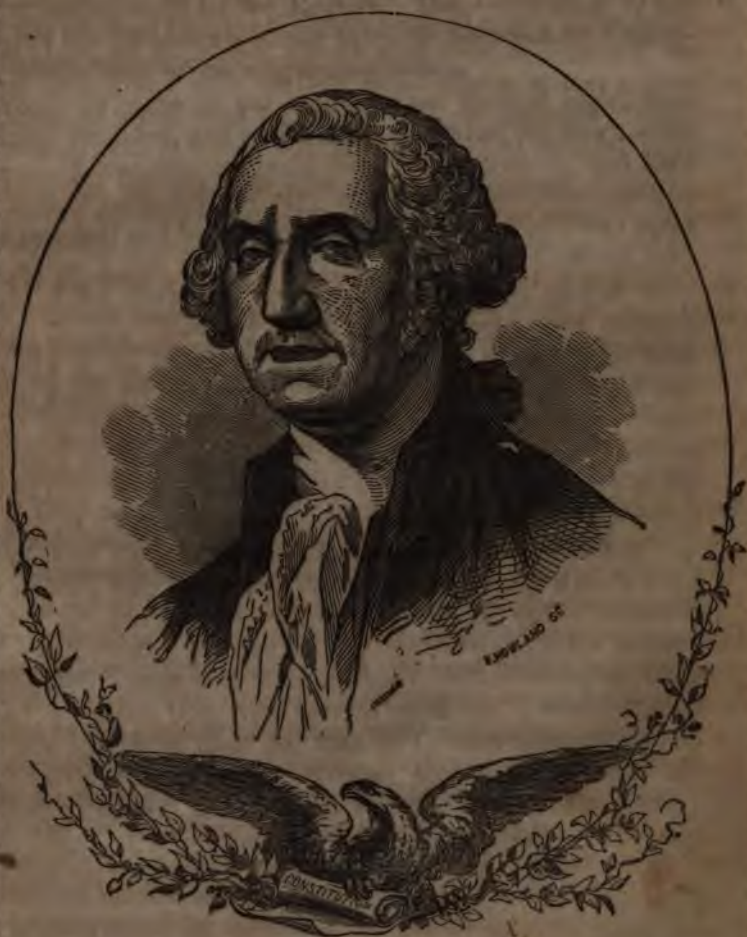
MASSACRE OF THE INHABITANTS OF DEERFIELD, AND CAPTIVITY OF THE REV. JOHN WILLIAMS AND FAMILY BY THE SAVAGES.

On the 19th of February, 1703, a large body of Indians from the frontiers assaulted the town of Deerfield. They entered the town about midnight, and commenced an indiscriminate butchery of the defenceless inhabitants. Among others, they attacked the house of the Rev. Mr. Williams, pastor of the parish. The following are the particulars of the melancholy transaction, as related by Mr. Williams.

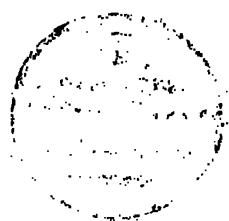
“ They came to my house in the beginning of the onset, and by their violent endeavors to break open doors and windows, with axes and hatchets, awaked me out of sleep ; on which I leaped out of bed, and, running towards the door, perceived the enemy making their entrance into the house. I called to awaken two soldiers in the chamber, and returned towards my bedside, for my arms. The enemy immediately broke into the room, I judge to the number of twenty, with painted faces and hideous acclamations. I reached up my hands to the bed-tester, for my pistol, uttering a short petition to God for everlasting mercy for me and mine, on account of the merits of our glorified Redeemer. Taking down my pistol, I cocked it and put it to the breast of the first Indian who came up : but my pistol missing fire, I was seized by three Indians, who disarmed me, and bound me naked, as I was in my shirt, and so I stood for the space of an hour. Binding me, they told me that I was to be carried to Quebec. My pistol missing fire was the occasion of my life's being preserved ; since which I have also found it profitable to be crossed in my own will. The judgment of God did not long slumber against one of the three which took me, who was a captain ; for by sunrise he received a mortal shot from my next

neighbor's house, who opposed so great a number of French and Indians as three hundred, and yet were no more than seven men in an ungarrisoned house.

"I cannot relate the distressing care I had for my dear wife, who had lain in but a few weeks before, and for my poor children, family, and Christian neighbors. The enemy fell to rifling the house, and entered in great numbers into every room in the house. I begged of God to remember mercy in the midst of judgment; that he would so far restrain their wrath as to prevent their murdering us; that we might have grace to glorify his name, whether in life or death; and, as I was able, committed our state to God. The enemies who entered the house were all of them Indians and Macquas, who insulted over me a while; holding up hatchets over my head, threatening to burn all I had; but yet God, beyond expectation, made us in great measure to be pitied; for though some were so cruel and barbarous as to take and carry to the door two of my children, and murder them, as also a negro woman, yet they gave me liberty to put on my clothes, keeping me bound with a cord on one arm, till I put on my clothes to the other; and then changing my cord, they let me dress myself, and then pinioned me again. Gave liberty to my dear wife to dress herself, and our children. About an hour after sunrise, we were all carried out of the house, for a march, and saw many of my neighbors' houses in flames, perceiving the whole fort, one house excepted, to be taken. Who can tell what sorrows pierced our souls when we saw ourselves carried from God's sanctuary, to go into a strange land exposed to so many trials? The journey being at least three hundred miles we were to travel, the snow up to the knees, and we never inured to such hardships and fatigues; the place we were carried to, a Popish country. Upon my parting from the town, they fired my house and barn. We were carried over the river to the foot of the mountain, about a mile from my house, where we found a great number of our Christian neighbors, men, women, and children, to the number of a hundred, nineteen of whom were afterwards murdered by the way, and to starve to death, near Coos, in a time of great scarcity or famine which the savages underwent there. When we came to the foot of the mountain, they took away our shoes, and gave us in the room of them Indian shoes, to prepare us for our travel. While we were there, the English beat out a company that remained in the town, and pursued them to the



GENERAL GEORGE WASHINGTON, THE FATHER OF HIS COUNTRY.



river, killing and wounding many of them ; but the body of the army being alarmed, they repulsed those few English that pursued them. After this, we went up to the mountain, and saw the smoke of the fires in the town, and beheld the awful desolation of Deerfield ; and before we marched any farther, they killed a sucking child of the English. There were slain by the enemy, of the inhabitants of our town, to the number of thirty-eight, besides nine of the neighboring towns.

“ When we came to our lodging-place the first night, they dug away the snow, and made some wigwams, cut down some of the small branches of spruce-trees to lie down on, and gave the prisoners somewhat to eat ; but we had but little appetite. I was pinioned and bound down that night, and so I was every night whilst I was with the army. Some of the enemy, who brought drink from the town, fell to drinking, and in their drunken fit they killed my negro man, the only dead person I either saw at the town, or in the way. In the night an Englishman made his escape. In the morning I was called for, and ordered by the general to tell the English, that if any more made their escape, they would burn the rest of the prisoners. He that took me was unwilling to let me speak with any of the prisoners as we marched ; but, early on the second day, he being appointed to the rear guard, I was put into the hands of my other master, who permitted me to speak to my wife, when I overtook her, and to walk with her, to help her in her journey.”

After a fatiguing journey of ten or twelve days, the Indians reached their village with their prisoners, to the number of thirty or forty, by whom they were held in captivity, enduring almost incredible hardships, until the 25th of October following, when an ambassador from Boston, Samuel Appleton, Esq., was despatched to redeem such as had survived. They took passage at Quebec, and, to the number of fifty-seven, arrived in safety at Boston on the 21st of November.

XXXII.

COURAGEOUS CONDUCT OF THE YOUTHFUL WASHINGTON.

In 1753 the French and Indians began to make inroads on our western frontiers along the Ohio. Governor Dinwiddie, of Virginia, was very desirous to get a letter of remonstrance to their commander-in-chief. He had applied to several young gentlemen of his acquaintance, but they were all so deficient in

courage that they could not be prevailed on, for love or money, to venture out among the savages. Our beloved WASHINGTON, happening to hear of it, instantly waited on his Excellency, and offered his services, but not without being terribly afraid lest his want of a beard should go against him. However, the Governor was so charmed with his modesty and manly air, that he never asked him a syllable about his age, but after thanking him for his offer, calling him a "noble youth," and insisting on his taking a glass of wine with him, slipped a commission into his hand. The next day he set out on his expedition, which was, from start to pole, as disagreeable and dangerous as any thing Hercules himself could have wished. Soaking rains, chilling blasts, roaring floods, pathless woods, and mountains clad in snows, opposed his course, but opposed in vain. The glorious ambition to serve his country imparted an animation to his nerves, which rendered him superior to all difficulties.

Returning homeward, he was waylaid and shot at by a French Indian, and though the copper-colored ruffian was not fifteen steps distant when he fired at him, yet not even so much as the smell of lead passed on the clothes of our young hero. On his return to Virginia, it was found that he had executed his negotiations, both with the French and Indians, with such fidelity and judgment, that he received the heartiest thanks of the Governor and Council for the very important services he had done his country.

He was now (in the twentieth year of his age) appointed major and adjutant-general of the Virginia forces. Soon after this, the Indians continuing their encroachments, orders were given by the English government for the colonies to arm and unite in one confederacy. Virginia took the lead, and raised a regiment of four hundred men, at the head of which she placed her darling WASHINGTON.

SECOND PERIOD.

THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION.

I

CAUSES WHICH LED TO THE WAR,

"THE independence of America," it has been observed, "was found by those who sought it not." When the fathers of this country left Great Britain, they had no intention of establishing a government independent of that of England. On the contrary, they came out as colonists, and expected still to acknowledge allegiance to the mother country. For many years, when they spoke, or wrote, or thought of England, it was under the filial and affectionate idea of "*home*." "And even at the commencement of the controversy with Great Britain," if we credit those who lived at that time, "there existed no *desire*, nor *intention* of becoming independent."

TAXATION.—Before the peace of '63 the subject of taxation had been left alone; but by an act of Parliament, passed Sept. 29th, 1764, for raising a revenue of the Colonies, by laying a duty upon coffee, sugar, indigo, &c.

The next year following, the famous "*Stamp Act*," passed both houses of Parliament.

The night after this act passed, Doctor Franklin, who was then in London, wrote to Charles Thompson, afterwards secretary of the continental congress, "*The sun of liberty is set; the Americans must light the lamps of industry and economy.*" To which Mr. Thompson answered, "Be assured we shall light *torches quite of another sort*"—thus predicting the convulsions which were about to follow.

Such was the opposition to this act, that it was soon after repealed, but accompanied by another called the "*declaratory act*," the language of which was "*that Parliament have, and of right ought to have POWER TO BIND THE COLONIES IN ALL CASES WHATSOEVER.*"

In 1769 Charles Townshend, Chancellor of the Exchequer, introduced into Parliament a second plan for taxing America, viz.

by imposing duties on glass, paper, pasteboard, painters' colors, and *tea*.

Without much opposition, it passed both houses, and, on the 29th of June, received the royal assent. At the same time were passed two other acts,—the one establishing a new board of custom-house officers in America; and the other restraining the legislature of the province of New York from *passing any act whatever*, until they should furnish the king's troops with several required articles.

These three acts reached America at the same time, and again excited universal alarm. The first and second were particularly odious. The new duties, it was perceived, were only a new mode of drawing money from the colonies; and the same strong opposition to the measure was exhibited, which had prevailed against the stamp act.

In Feb. 1769, both houses of Parliament went a step beyond all that had preceded, in an address to the king requesting him to give orders to the governor of Massachusetts to take notice of such as might be guilty of *treason*, that they might be sent to *England and tried there*.

While affairs were thus situated, an event occurred, which produced great excitement in America, particularly in Massachusetts. This was an affray, on the evening of the 5th of March, 1770, between several of the citizens of Boston, and a number of British soldiers, stationed at the custom-house. Several of the inhabitants were killed, and others severely wounded.

The quarrel commenced on the 2d of March, at Gray's rope walk, between a soldier and a man employed at the rope walk. The provocation was given by the citizen, and a scuffle ensued, in which the soldier was beaten. On the 5th of the month, the soldiers, while under arms, were pressed upon and insulted, and dared to fire. One of them, who had received a blow, fired at the aggressor; and a single discharge from six others succeeded. Three of the citizens were killed, and five dangerously wounded. The town was instantly thrown into the greatest commotion, the bells were rung, and the general cry was, "To arms." In a short time, several thousands of the citizens had assembled, and a dreadful scene of blood must have ensued, but for the promise of Gov. Hutchinson, that the affair should be settled to their satisfaction in the morning.

During these transactions in America, a plan was devised by the British ministry to introduce *tea* into the colonies. For some time little of that article had been imported into the country, from a determination of the people not to submit to the payment of the duty upon it. In consequence of this, the teas of the East India company had greatly accumulated in their warehouses. To enable them to export their teas to America, the British minister introduced a bill into Parliament, allowing the company to export

their teas into America with a drawback of all the duties paid in England. As this would make the tea cheaper in America than in Great Britain, it was presumed that the Americans would pay the small duty upon it, which was only threepence. In this, however, the Parliament mistook. Not a single penny, by way of duty, was paid upon it, nor a single pound of it consumed.

On the passage of this bill, the company made a shipment of large quantities of tea to Charleston, Philadelphia, New York, and Boston. Before its arrival, the resolution had been formed by the inhabitants of those places, that, if possible, it should not even be landed. The cargo destined for Charleston was indeed landed and stored, but was not permitted to be offered for sale. The vessels which brought tea to Philadelphia and New York, were compelled to return to England, without even having made an entry at the custom house.

It was designed by the leading patriots of Boston to make a similar disposition of the cargoes expected at that place; but, on their arrival, the consignees were found to be the relations or friends of the governor, and they could not be induced to resign their trust. Several town-meetings were held on the subject, and spirited resolutions passed, that no considerations would induce the inhabitants to permit the landing of the tea. Orders were at the same time given to the captains to obtain clearances at the custom-house, without the usual entries; but this the collector pertinaciously refused.

It was in this state of things that the citizens of Boston again assembled to determine what measures to adopt. While the discussions were going on, a captain of a vessel was despatched to the governor to request a passport. At length, he returned to say that the governor refused. The meeting was immediately dissolved. A secret plan had been formed to mingle the tea with the waters of the ocean. Three different parties soon after sallied out, in the costume of Mohawk Indians, and precipitately made their way to the wharves. At the same time, the citizens were seen in crowds directing their course to the same place, to become spectators of a scene as novel as the enterprise was bold. Without noise, without the tumult usual on similar occasions, the tea was taken from the vessel by the conspirators, and expeditiously offered as an oblation "to the watery god."

Next came the celebrated "*Pont Bill*" so called, also an order directing the governor to send any person indicted for murder or any other capital offence, to *Great Britain* for trial.

Thus we have given a succinct account of the system of measures adopted by the ministry of England toward the American colonies after the peace of '63—measures most unfeeling and unjust; but which no petitions, however respectful, and no remonstrance, however loud, could change. Satisfied of this, justice

permitted the people, and self-respect and self-preservation loudly summoned them to *resist by force*.

The crisis, therefore, had now arrived, the signal of war was given, and the blood shed at *Lexington* opened the scene.



II.

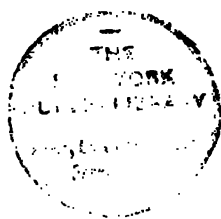
BATTLE OF LEXINGTON, 18th APRIL, 1775.

THE FOLLOWING ACCOUNT OF THE EVENTS OF LEXINGTON, IS TAKEN IN PART FROM THE MILITARY JOURNAL OF J. THATCHER, M. D., LATE IN THE AMERICAN ARMY.

AUTHENTICATED accounts are now received of the battle of Lexington. On Tuesday evening, 18th instant, General Gage despatched, with as much secrecy as possible, a detachment consisting of eight or nine hundred regulars, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Smith, for the purpose of destroying some military stores which our people had deposited at Concord, about eighteen miles from Boston. Having arrived at Lexington, six miles short of Concord, they were met by a company of militia, of about one hundred men, who, having taken the alarm, began to assemble from different towns before daylight. They were assembled near the church, about sunrise; when the British advanced in quick march to within a few rods, Major Pitcairn called out, "*Disperse, you rebels! throw down your arms and disperse.*" Their small number would not admit of opposition, and while they were dispersing, the regulars huzzaed, and immediately one or two pistols were fired by the officers, and four or five muskets by the soldiers; when a pretty general discharge from the whole party followed, by which eight of our people were kill-



BATTLE OF BUNKER HILL.



ed and seven wounded. The British now renewed their march to Concord, where they destroyed a few articles of stores and sixty barrels of flour. Here they were met by about one hundred and fifty militia-men, on whom they fired, and killed two and wounded others. Our militia and minute-men were now collecting in considerable numbers, and being justly enraged they made a bold and furious attack on the enemy, and drove them in *quick march* to Lexington. General Gage having received intelligence of the critical situation of his troops, immediately ordered out Lord Percy, with a large reinforcement, with two field pieces. He marched over the neck through Roxbury, his music playing, by way of contempt and derision, the tune of "*Yankee Doodle*." This timely reinforcement joined the party under command of Colonel Smith at Lexington, which formed a force of about eighteen hundred men. They soon deemed it prudent to commence their march to Boston, the provincial militia and minute-men, continually increasing in numbers, pursued and flanked them with the hope of cutting off their retreat. A constant skirmishing ensued; the provincials concealed themselves behind stone walls, and with a sure aim thinned their enemies' ranks, and occasioned among them great confusion. On their side, they could only keep up a scattering fire, without effect, frequently firing over the stone walls, when there was not a man to be seen behind them. The great object of the British, was to effect a safe retreat to Boston; but, to avenge themselves, they burnt and plundered houses, destroyed property, and actually murdered several innocent unarmed persons. The situation of the king's forces was, during the day, extremely hazardous; and it is considered wonderful that any of them escaped. Worn down and almost exhausted with fatigue, and their ammunition nearly expended, they had become nearly defenceless when they reached Charlestown, in the evening, after a loss of two hundred and seventy-three men, killed, wounded and prisoners. The loss on the side of the Provincials is eighty-eight in the whole.

III.

BATTLE OF BUNKER'S HILL, 17TH JUNE, 1776.

THE sound of drum and trumpet, the clatter of hoofs, the rattling of gun-carriages and all the other military din and bustle in the streets of Boston soon apprised the Americans on their rudely fortified high of an impending attack. They were ill fitted to withstand it, being jaded by the night's labor and want of sleep; hungry and thirsty, having brought but scanty supplies, and oppressed by the heat of the weather. Prescott sent repeated messages to General Ward, asking reinforcements and provisions.

Putnam seconded the request in person, urging the exigencies of the case. Ward hesitated. He feared to weaken his main body at Cambridge, as his military stores were deposited there and it might have to sustain the principal attack. At length, having taken advice of the Council of Safety, he issued orders to Cols. Stark and Read, then at Medford, to march to the relief of Prescott with their New Hampshire regiments. The orders reached Medford about 11 o'clock. Ammunition was distributed in all haste—two flints, a gill of powder and fifteen balls to each man. The bullets had to be suited to the different calibres of the guns; the powder to be carried in powder-horns, or loose in the pocket, for there were no cartridges prepared. It was the rude turn-out of yeoman soldiery destitute of regular accoutrements.

In the meanwhile the Americans on Breed's Hill were sustaining the fire from the ships and from the battery on Copp's Hill, which opened upon them about 10 o'clock. They returned an occasional shot from one corner of the redoubt without much harm to the enemy, and continued strengthening their position until about 11 o'clock, when they ceased to work, piled up their intrenching tools in the rear and looked out anxiously and impatiently for the anticipated reinforcements and supplies.

About this time Gen. Putnam, who had been to head-quarters arrived at the redoubt on horseback. Some words passed between him and Prescott with regard to the intrenching tools which have been variously reported. The most probable version is that he urged to have them taken from their present place, where they might fall into the hands of the enemy, and carried to Bunker's Hill, to be employed in throwing up a redoubt, which was part of the original plan, and which would be very important should the troops be obliged to retreat from Breed's Hill. To this Prescott demurred that those employed to convey them, and who were already jaded with toil, might not return to his redoubt. A large part of the tools were ultimately carried to Bunker's Hill and a breastwork commenced by order of General Putnam. The importance of such a work was afterward made apparent.

About noon the Americans descried twenty-eight barges crossing from Boston in parallel lines. They contained a large detachment of grenadiers, rangers and light infantry, admirably equipped and commanded by Major-General Howe. They made a splendid and formidable appearance with their scarlet uniforms and the sun flashing upon muskets, and bayonets, and brass field pieces. A heavy fire from the ships and batteries covered their advance, but no attempt was made to oppose them, and they landed about one o'clock at Moulton's Point, a little to the North of Breed's Hill.

Here General Howe made a pause. On reconnoitering the works from this point the Americans appeared to be much more

strongly posted than he had imagined. He descried troops also hastening to their assistance. These were the New Hampshire troops, led on by Stark. Howe immediately sent over to Gen. Gage for more forces and a supply of cannon-balls, those brought by him being found, through some egregious oversight, too large for the ordnance. While awaiting their arrival, refreshments were served out to the troops, with "grog" by the bucketful; and tantalizing it was to the hungry and thirsty provincials, to look down from their ramparts of earth, and see their invaders, seated in groups upon the grass, eating and drinking, and preparing themselves by a hearty meal for the coming encounter. Their only consolation was to take advantage of the delay while the enemy were carousing, to strengthen their position. The breastwork on the left of the position extended to what was called the Slough, but beyond this, the ridge of the hill, and the slope towards Mystic River were undefended, leaving a pass by which the enemy might turn the left flank of the position and seize upon Bunker's Hill. Putnam ordered his chosen officer, Capt. Knowlton, to cover this pass with the Connecticut troops under his command. A novel kind of rampart, savoring of rural device, was suggested by the rustic General. About six hundred feet in the rear of the redoubt and about one hundred feet to the left of the breastwork was a post-and-rail fence set in a low foot-wall of stone, and extending down to Mystic River. The post and rails of another fence were hastily pulled up and set a few feet in behind this, and the intermediate space was filled up with new mown hay from the adjacent meadows. The double fence it will be found proved an important protection to the redoubt, although there still remained an unprotected interval of about seven hundred feet.

While Knowlton and his men were putting up this fence Putnam proceeded with other of his troops to throw up the works on Bunker's Hill, dispatching his son, Capt. Putnam, on horseback to hurry up the remainder of his men from Cambridge. By this time his compeer in French and Indian warfare, the veteran Stark, made his appearance with the New Hampshire troops, five hundred strong. He had grown cool and wary with age, and his march from Medford, a distance of five or six miles, had been in character. He led his men at a moderate pace to bring them into action fresh and vigorous. In crossing the Neck, which was enfiladed by the enemy's ships and batteries, Capt. Dearborn, who was on his side, suggested a quick step. The veteran shook his head: "One fresh man in action is worth ten tired ones," replied he, and marched steadily on.

Putnam detained some of Stark's men to aid in throwing up the works on Bunker's Hill, and directed him to reinforce Knowlton with the rest. Stark made a short speech to his men, now that they were likely to have warm work. He then pushed on, and did good service that day at the rustic bulwark.

About two o'clock Warren arrived on the heights, ready to engage in their perilous defense, although he had opposed the scheme of their occupation. He had recently been elected a major-general, but had not received his commission; like Pomeroy, he came to serve in the ranks with a musket on his shoulder. Putnam offered him the command at the fence; he declined it, and merely asked where he could be of most service as a volunteer. Putnam pointed to the redoubt, observing that there he would be under cover. "Don't think I seek a place of safety," replied Warren, quickly; "where will the attack be hottest?" Putnam still pointed to the redoubt. "That is the enemy's object; if that can be maintained the day is ours." Warren was cheered by the troops as he entered the redoubt. Col. Prescott tendered him the command. He again declined. "I have come to serve only as a volunteer, and shall be happy to learn from a soldier of your experience." Such were the noble spirits assembled on these perilous heights.

The British now prepared for a general assault. An easy victory was anticipated; the main thought was, how to make it most effectual. The left wing, commanded by Gen. Pigot, was to mount the hill and force the redoubt, while Gen. Howe, with the right wing, was to push on between the fort and Mystic River, turn the left flank of the Americans, and cut off their retreat.

Gen. Pigot accordingly advanced up the hill under cover of a fire from field-pieces and howitzers planted on a small height near the landing-place on Moulton's Point. His troops commenced a discharge of musketry while yet at a long distance from the redoubts. The Americans within the works, obedient to strict command, retained their fire until the enemy were within thirty or forty paces, when they opened upon them with a tremendous volley. Being all marksmen, accustomed to take deliberate aim, the slaughter was immense, and especially fatal to officers. The assailants fell back in some confusion; but, rallied on by their officers, advanced within pistol shot. Another volley, more effective than the first, made them again recoil. To add to their confusion, they were galled by a flanking fire from the handful of Provincials posted in Charlestown. Shocked at the carnage, and seeing the confusion of his troops, Gen. Pigot was urged to give the word for a retreat.

In the meanwhile, Gen. Howe, with the left wing, advanced along Mystic River toward the fence where Stark's head and Knowlton were stationed, thinking to carry this slight breastwork with ease, and so get in the rear of the fortress. His artillery proved of little avail, being stopped by a swampy piece of ground, while his columns suffered from two or three field pieces with which Putnam had fortified the fence. Howe's men kept up a fire of musketry as they advanced; but, not taking aim, their shot passed over the heads of the Americans. The latter had received

the same orders with those in the redoubt, not to fire until the enemy should be within thirty paces. Some few transgressed the command. Putnam rode up and swore he would cut down the next man that fired contrary to orders. When the British arrived within the stated distance, a sheeted fire opened upon them from rifles, muskets and fowling pieces, all leveled with deadly aim. The carnage, as in the other instance, was horrible. The British were thrown into confusion and fell back; some even retreated to the boats.

There was a general pause on the part of the British. The American officers availed themselves of it to prepare for another attack, which must soon be made. Prescott mingled among his men in the redoubt, who were all in high spirits at the severe check they had given "the regulars." He praised them for their steadfastness in maintaining their post and their good conduct in reserving their fire until the word of command, and exhorted them to do the same in the next attack.

Putnam rode about Bunker's Hill and its skirts to rally and bring on reinforcements which had been checked or scattered in crossing Charlestown Neck, by the raking fire from the ships and batteries. Before many could be brought to the scene of action the British had commenced their second attack. They again ascended the hill to storm the redoubt; their advance was covered as before by discharges of artillery. Charlestown, which had annoyed them on their first attack by a flanking fire, was in flames by shells thrown from Copp's Hill, and by marines from the ships. Being built of wood, the place was soon wrapped in a general conflagration. The thunder of artillery from batteries and ships, the bursting of bomb-shells; the sharp discharges of musketry; the shouts and yells of the combatants; the crash of burning buildings, and the dense volumes of smoke which obscured the summer sun, all formed a tremendous spectacle. "Sure I am," said Burgoyne in one of his letters—"Sure I am nothing ever has or ever can be more dreadfully terrible than what was to be seen or heard at this time. The most incessant discharge of guns that ever was heard by mortal ears."

The American troops although unused to war stood undismayed amidst a scene where it was bursting upon them with all its horrors. Reserving their fire, as before, until the enemy was close at hand, they again poured forth repeated volleys with the fatal aim of sharpshooters. The British stood the first shock, and continued to advance; but the incessant stream of fire staggered them. Their officers remonstrated, threatened, and even attempted to goad them on with their swords, but the havoc was too deadly; whole ranks were mowed down; many of the officers were either slain or wounded, and among them several of the staff of Gen. Howe. The troops again gave way and retreated down the hill.

All this passed under the eye of thousands of spectators of both sexes and all ages, watching from afar every turn of a battle in which the lives of those most dear to them were at hazard. The British soldiery in Boston gazed with astonishment and almost incredulity at the resolute and protracted stand of raw militia, whom they had been taught to despise, and at the havoc made among their own veteran troops. Every convoy of wounded brought over to the town increased their consternation; and Gen. Clinton, who had watched the action from Copp's Hill, embarking in a boat, hurried over as a volunteer, taking with him reinforcements.

A third attack was now determined on, though some of Howe's officers remonstrated, declaring it would be downright butchery. A different plan was adopted. Instead of advancing in front of the redoubt, it was to be taken in flank on the left, where the open space between the breastwork and the fortified fence presented a weak point. It having been accidentally discovered that the ammunition of the Americans was nearly expended, preparations were made to carry the works at the point of the bayonet; and the soldiery threw off their knapsacks, and some even their coats, to be more light for action.

Gen. Howe, with the main body, now made a feint of attacking the fortified fence; but while a part of his force was thus engaged, the rest brought some field-pieces to enfilade the breastwork on the left of the redoubt. A raking fire soon drove the Americans out of this exposed place into the inclosure. Much damage, too, was done in the latter by balls which entered the sallyport.

The troops were now led on to assail the works; those who flinched were as before goaded on by the swords of the officers. The Americans again reserved their fire until their assailants were close at hand, and then made a murderous volley, by which several officers were laid low, and Gen. Howe himself was wounded in the foot. The British soldiery this time likewise reserved their fire, and rushed on with fixed bayonet. Clinton and Pigot had reached the southern and eastern sides of the redoubt, and it was now assailed on three sides at once. Prescott ordered those who had no bayonets to retire to the back part of the redoubt, and fire on the enemy as they showed themselves on the parapet. The first who mounted exclaimed in triumph, "The day is ours!" He was instantly shot down, and so were several others who mounted about the same time. The Americans, however, had fired their last round, their ammunition was exhausted; and now succeeded a desperate and deadly struggle, hand to hand, with bayonets, stones and the stocks of their muskets. At length as the British continued to pour in, Prescott gave the order to retreat. His men had to cut their way through two divisions of the enemy who were getting in rear of the redoubt, and they received a destructive volley from those who had formed on the

captured works. By that volley fell the patriot Warren who had distinguished himself throughout the action. He was among the last to leave the redoubt, and had scarce done so, when he was shot through the head with a musket-ball, and fell dead on the spot.

While the Americans were thus slowly dislodged from the redoubt, Stark, Read and Knowlton maintained their ground at the fortified fence, which indeed had been nobly defended throughout the action. Pomeroy distinguished himself here by his sharp-shooting, until his musket was shattered by a ball. The resistance at this hastily-constructed work was kept up after the troops in the redoubt had given way and until Colonel Prescott had left the hill, thus defeating Gen. Howe's design of cutting off the retreat of the main body which would have produced a scene of direful confusion and slaughter. Having effected their purpose, the brave associates of the fence abandoned their weak outpost, retiring slowly and disputing the ground inch by inch with a regularity remarkable in troops many of whom had never before been in action.

The main retreat was across Bunker's Hill, where Putnam had endeavored to throw up a breastwork. The veteran, sword in hand, rode to the rear of the retreating troops regardless of the balls whistling about him. His only thought was to rally them at the unfinished works. "Halt! make a stand here!" cried he, "we can check them yet. In God's name, form, and give them one shot more."

Pomeroy, wielding his shattered musket as a truncheon, seconded him in his efforts to stay the torrent. It was impossible, however, to bring the troops to a stand. They continued on down the hill to the Neck, and across it to Cambridge, exposed to a raking fire from the ships and batteries, and only protected by a single piece of ordnance. The British were too exhausted to pursue them; they contented themselves with taking possession of Bunker's Hill, were reinforced from Boston, and threw up additional works during the night.

IV.

CAPTURE OF TICONDEROGA, CROWN POINT, AND WHITEHALL.

ABOUT the time of the battles of Bunker's Hill and Lexington, several other interesting and successful enterprises contributed greatly to elevate the public mind in regard to the probabilities of the results of war. Among these was the result of an enterprise for seizing the important fortress of Ticonderoga, on Lake Champlain, the key to the northern entrance into Canada. Colonel Ethan Allen was the chief projector of this expedition;

and, early in May, accompanied by Colonels Easton, Browne and Warner, and Capt. Dickenson, with a number of volunteers from Connecticut and Vermont, they proceeded towards Castleton. About the same time, Benedict Arnold, a native of Norwich, Connecticut, and Captain in the provincial army, also conceived the plan of seizing Ticonderoga, and such confidence had the Massachusetts Committee of Safety in his bravery and judgment, that they gave him the rank of Colonel, with authority to levy troops for the expedition. Having collected a sufficient number, he proceeded, and at Castleton he overtook Allen, who, much to his surprise, had anticipated him. He immediately put himself under Allen's command, and they proceeded on their march.

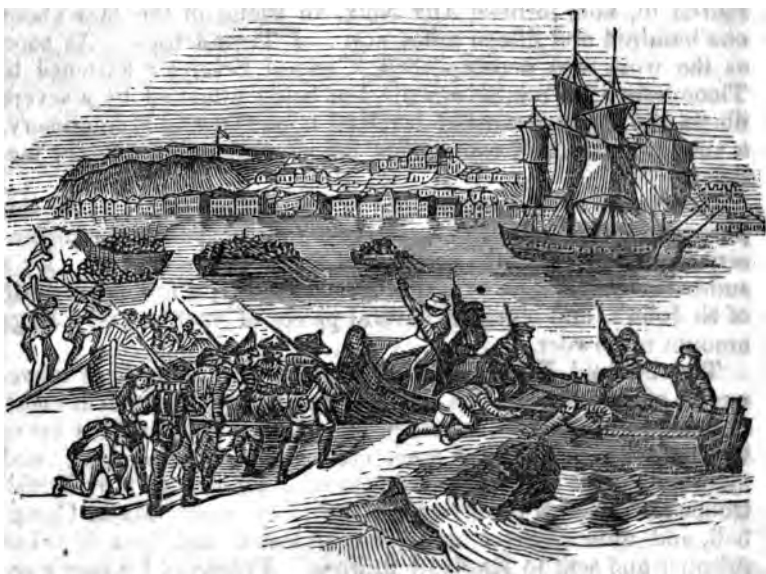
The officer in command at Ticonderoga, was Captain La Place, an old friend of Allen. Precautions were taken to prevent their approach being known. They arrived at night on the banks of the lake opposite Ticonderoga, and there Allen found a boy who volunteered to be their guide across the lake and to the fort. With only eighty-three men, they approached the fortress in the grey of the early morning, entered by the covered way, and having reached the esplanade, raised a tremendous shout, which aroused the sleeping garrison. Supposing the number of invaders to be far greater than it actually was, the soldiers were paralyzed, and offered but a feeble resistance. The boy conducted Allen to the door of La Place's bed-chamber, who at that moment appeared, half-dressed, and demanded the cause of the tumult. The rough and well-known voice of Allen bade him surrender the fort. "By what authority do you make the demand?" asked La Place. "By the Great Jehovah and the Continental Congress," thundered Allen. The commander found it was useless to parley, and at once surrendered.

This enterprise was facilitated by Noah Phelps, a captain of Connecticut volunteers. The day before Allen's arrival, Captain Phelps disguised himself and entered the fort at Ticonderoga, in the character of a countryman wanting to be shaved. In his pretended search for the garrison barber he observed everything critically; discovered that the walls in part, were in a ruinous state, and that guard was kept very negligently.

They secured one hundred and twenty pieces of twenty-four pound brass cannon, several howitzers, balls, bombs, and ammunition. A party was immediately sent to seize the fort at Crown Point, which was easily effected, and more than a hundred pieces of artillery were secured there.

They next armed a schooner, which, under the command of Colonel Arnold, captured a corvette of war, which the English kept anchored at St. John's, at the head of the lake. They then proceeded to Skeensborough, (now Whitehall,) and successfully stormed and captured the fort, by which they came in possession of a large quantity of light artillery. This series of brilliant ex-

plots put the Americans in complete possession of the lake and the chief route to Canada, and inspired the Colonists with the greatest joy and hope for the future. The different fortresses were garrisoned; and leaving the whole under the command of Arnold, Allen returned to Connecticut.



CROSSING THE ST. LAWRENCE AT QUEBEC.

V.

EXPEDITION AGAINST CANADA, FOR THE CAPTURE OF QUEBEC UNDER GENERALS SCHUYLER AND MONTGOMERY.

THE capture of Ticonderoga and Crown Point, unlocked the door of entrance into Canada, and an expedition for revolutionizing that whole province was early concerted. For this purpose a body of about three thousand troops from New York and New England, were placed under the command of Generals Schuyler and Montgomery, who passed up Lake Champlain, and early in September appeared before St. John's, a town at the head of the lake, not far distant from Montreal, and the first British post in Canada.

For the twofold purpose of preventing or committing invasion, General Carleton, the Governor of Canada, had placed nearly a thousand men in Fort St. John. In the meanwhile, hearing of the success of Allen and Arnold, General Gage had sent Brigadier General Prescott and a few other officers to Montreal, to

aid General Carleton; and about the time the provincials appeared before the fortress, Colonel Guy Johnstone arrived there with seven hundred Indian warriors of the Five Nations, and offered their services to the Governor. But they were not accepted, and many of them soon afterwards joined the provincial army.

Finding themselves opposed by so large a force, the provincials retired to, and fortified Aux Noix, an island in the lake about one hundred and fifteen miles north of Ticonderoga. As soon as the work was accomplished, General Schuyler hastened to Ticonderoga for reinforcements, but being attacked by a severe illness, the whole command devolved upon General Montgomery, a young, active, and courageous officer, and skilful military tactician.

He at once made preparations to attack Montreal, and for this purpose, opened a battery against St. John's; but want of necessary ammunition made the progress of the siege a slow one. By a sudden movement, he captured Fort Chambly, a few miles north of St John's, and obtained several pieces of cannon and a large amount of powder.

The intrepid Ethan Allen, who participated in these movements, offered to take one hundred and fifty picked men at night, and capture Montreal. Leave was granted him, and the brave Colonel with only eighty men, crossed the St. Lawrence, and before daylight approached the town. He was met by British troops and French Canadians of the place, under Major Campbell, and after a severe battle, was defeated, and himself taken prisoner and sent to England in irons. Fifteen of his men were killed, and seven wounded.

On the third of November, St. John's surrendered unconditionally, with upwards of five hundred regulars and one hundred Canadian volunteers. As General Carleton could not get reinforcements, and hearing that Colonel Arnold, with another American force was approaching Point Levi, he embarked his men, and retreated down the St. Lawrence to stop Arnold's progress. Carleton was conveyed in a whale-boat, with muffled oars, down the river, and through Montgomery's rafts, on a dark night, and reached Quebec in safety. Montgomery left St. John's immediately on its surrender, leaving a small garrison for its defence, and darting across the St. Lawrence, entered Montreal without much opposition. On the thirteenth it capitulated, and leaving a small garrison there, he hastened towards Quebec, to meet the army under Arnold, which, by forced marches, through a dreary wilderness, succeeded in reaching the banks of the St. Lawrence at Point Levi, on the ninth of November. When Montgomery arrived, he found that he had only about four hundred effective men, his garrisons and desertions having thus reduced his army.

Previous to the arrival of Montgomery, and on the day that

Montreal capitulated, Arnold crossed the St. Lawrence, ascended the heights of Abraham at the point where the brave Wolfe scaled them, and drew up his forces upon the plain. But he found the garrison too strong for him, and he retreated to Point Aux Trembles, twenty miles above Quebec, and there awaited the arrival of Montgomery. Had Arnold reached there a little sooner, he might have taken General Carleton and his staff prisoners, for they left it but a few hours previously.

When Arnold first arrived opposite Quebec, the garrison was very weak, and it would doubtless have been obliged to surrender to him unconditionally, if he could have crossed the river immediately on his arrival. But for five days a terrible storm raged, and he could procure no boats. In the meanwhile, Colonel McLean and his brave Highlanders, who had been falling back from the Sorel to reach the city, succeeded, and thus saved it.

This expedition of Arnold, in its conception and execution, is one of the most remarkable on record, and whatever blemishes afterwards appeared upon his character, one thing cannot be denied—he was a man of great sagacity and boldness of character, and as brave an officer as ever commanded an army. At his own request he was despatched to Quebec with about eleven hundred men. The route was then a dreary desert, intersected by dense forests and swamps. Starting from Cambridge, the headquarters of the army blockading Boston, he marched one hundred and thirty miles northward of that city, and embarked with his men in batteaux upon the rough and tortuous Kennebec. He was quite ignorant of the character of the stream he was ascending, it having never been surveyed. He found strong currents, craggy rocks, dangerous shoals, and numerous falls and rapids; but nothing daunted, he pursued his toilsome journey. But Colonel Enos, his second in command, got embarrassed in the windings of the Dead River, a branch of the Kennebec, and finding it impossible to procure food for his soldiers, gave up in despair, and returned to Cambridge, with nearly one third of the whole detachment.

Finding it impossible to follow the river further, Arnold abandoned his batteaux, and forced his way through forests, swamps, and broad savannas, and for thirty-two long days, he traversed a howling wilderness, where no signs of human life met his eye. His patriot troops suffered dreadfully from hunger and cold, yet scarcely a murmur escaped their lips. On the third of November he reached the first Canadian settlement on the river Chaudière, which flows into the St. Lawrence nearly opposite Quebec. He had then divided the last fragment of provisions among his men, and after resting for two or three days, and procuring a scanty supply of food from the thin population, he took up his line of March along the banks of the Chaudière, and reached Point Levi, opposite Quebec, on the Ninth of November.



DEATH OF MONTGOMERY.

On the arrival of Montgomery, the two forces were united, and numbered about nine hundred men. They marched upon Quebec, which was then strongly garrisoned, the forces of General Carleton having been added to those of Colonel McLean. Montgomery sent a flag and summoned the garrison to surrender. The summons was answered by firing upon the bearer of the flag. Finding a siege necessary, he opened a six-gun battery within seven hundred yards of the walls. His heaviest guns being twelve-pounders, they were too light to make a breach, and, after a long and ineffectual siege, the two officers determined upon an assault at night. This was an exceedingly dangerous enterprise, and nothing but the desperate nature of the case, like that of Wolfe, could have justified the temerity that planned it. But they must either abandon the siege, and retreat homewards, amid the rigors of a Canadian winter, or make the desperate effort. The latter was their determination.

Between four and five o'clock in the morning on the thirty-first of December, in the midst of a heavy storm of snow, the American troops, arranged in four columns, were put in motion. Two of them, under Majors Livingston and Brown, were to make two feigned attacks upon the upper town; while the other two, led by Montgomery and Arnold, were to make real attacks upon the lower town, upon opposite sides. Montgomery advanced along a narrow strip of beach, by the way of Cape Diamond, and passed a piquet and block, which were quickly deserted on his approach. His progress was much impeded by enormous masses of ice which the current of the river had piled up, and

his men, slipping and clambering, were stretched along in a thin line, in a peculiarly exposed position. Some English sailors and Highland soldiers stood silently at the battery as the Americans approached, and when they arrived within about forty paces, a cannon loaded with grape-shot, was discharged, and dealt death on every side. The brave Montgomery, Captain McPherson, his aide-de-camp, Captain Cheeseman, an orderly-sergeant, and a private, were instantly killed, and several others were slightly wounded. Seeing their officers fall, the soldiers retreated in great confusion.

In the meanwhile, Arnold had entered the town, and at the head of his men, proceeded to capture a battery of two twelve-pounders, situated in a narrow street. The artillery, with one cannon upon a sledge, led the van, followed by a company of riflemen, under Captain Morgan, afterwards distinguished for his brave exploits at the south. When near the battery they received a flank fire of musketry, and Arnold, severely wounded in the leg, was carried to the hospital. Morgan took the command, and rushing forward, secured the battery. The English and Canadians now pressed upon them from all sides; and finding it impossible to retreat, the Americans, to the number of three hundred and forty, after a contest of several hours, surrendered themselves prisoners of war. Between sixty and seventy Americans were killed.

The body of Montgomery was borne off the field by Major (afterwards Colonel) Aaron Burr, who accompanied Arnold in his march through the wilderness. Burr was within six feet of his general when he fell. Montgomery was deeply lamented by all. He had distinguished himself in the French and Indian wars, had shared the toils, and hardships, and honors of Wolfe, and, when the Revolution broke out, joined the American Army. He had previously purchased an estate upon the Hudson River, in the County of Dutchess, and married the daughter of Robert Livingston, one of the leading patriots of the Revolution. His body was found in the snow, the day after the battle, and by order of General Carleton, it was buried with the honors due to an officer of his rank. Congress subsequently directed a monument to be erected to his memory; and in 1818, at the expense of the State of New York, his remains were placed near the monument, a basso-relievo, under the portico of St. Paul's church in the city of New York.

VI.

EVACUATION OF BOSTON, 1776.

EARLY in the spring of 1776, General Washington contemplated the expulsion of the British army from Boston, by direct assault. In a council of war, it was deemed expedient, however, rather to take possession of, and fortify Dorchester Heights, which commanded the harbor and British shipping. The night of the 4th of March was selected for the attempt.

On that evening, everything being prepared, the Americans, about two thousand strong, under General Thomas, proceeded in profound silence towards the heights of Dorchester. The night was a dark one, and the wind, blowing away from Boston, was favorable for their concealment, and they reached the heights unobserved. The Americans went vigorously to work, and so amazing was their activity, that by ten o'clock they completed two forts, which would afford tolerable protection; one on the height nearest the city, the other towards Castle William. At daybreak the next morning, the British, with dread surprise, witnessed an apparition similar to that presented on Breed's Hill on the morning of the seventeenth of June in the preceding year. The first intimation they had of this movement of the provincials, was the appearance of a dangerous battery and fortifications, from whence General Thomas began to thunder at the town and ships of war.

From this point, the cannon of the Americans could sweep the city and the whole harbor. This, both General Howe and the British admiral saw, and they determined to take measures to dislodge General Thomas at once. For this purpose Lord Percy was despatched with three thousand men, who embarked in transports, with a view of proceeding up the river to the foot of Dorchester Hill. But a furious storm arose, which rendered the harbor impassable, and the attack was necessarily deferred. Meanwhile, Washington diligently perfected measures to prevent the attack at that point, or to meet it successfully, if made. He also planned an attack upon the town at the same time, with four thousand men, under the command of Generals Sullivan and Green. General Mifflin had also prepared a great number of hogsheads full of stones and sand, which he intended to roll down the heights of Dorchester, when the enemy were ascending them, and thus sweep off whole columns at once.

General Howe, becoming acquainted with these various plans and preparations, came to the wise and humane conclusion that "prudence was the better part of valor;" and having some time before received orders from Lord Dartmouth, one of the Secretaries of State, to evacuate Boston, and establish himself at New York, he concluded this occasion was the most favorable one to obey those

orders. Accordingly a flag was sent out from the Selectmen of Boston, by order of General Howe, acquainting Washington with his design to evacuate the city, and to intimate his intention to leave the town standing, provided he should be allowed to embark unmolested. This communication not being signed by Howe, Washington took no notice of it officially, but instructed some of his officers to intimate that the terms, if properly presented, would be complied with. General Howe designated the fifteenth as the day for the embarkation of the troops, and meanwhile, more than fifteen hundred tory families, dreading the just indignation of their countrymen, prepared to embark in the same vessels. During the interim, all was confusion, and lawless bands of soldiers took every opportunity to plunder the houses of the inhabitants. General Howe took strong measures to prevent these outrages, but to little purpose.

The prevalence of a strong east wind delayed their departure until the seventeenth. At four in the morning, they began their embarkation, and at ten, all were on board, the number of troops being about seven thousand. The rear guard was scarcely out of the city, when, to the great joy of the inhabitants, Washington entered it on the other side, with drums beating, colors flying, and all the display of a glorious triumph. General Putnam, with a division of the army, had entered it the day previous. So crowded were the vessels with the tory emigrants and their effects, that Howe was obliged to leave behind him two hundred and fifty pieces of cannon, half of which were serviceable, four large mortars, one hundred and fifty horses, twenty-five thousand bushels of wheat, and a quantity of barley, oats, and other provisions, which our army then greatly needed.

It was indeed a joyful day for Boston. Sixteen long months they had endured hunger, cold, and every privation. The most necessary articles of food had risen to an exorbitant price. A pound of fresh fish cost twenty-three cents, a goose two dollars; a turkey three dollars; a duck one dollar; hams fifty cents a pound. Vegetables were altogether wanting. A sheep cost about nine dollars; apples eight dollars a barrel; firewood ten dollars a cord; and finally, fuel could not be procured at all. In some instances, the pews and benches of churches were taken for fuel, and the counters of warehouses, and even houses not inhabited, were demolished for the sake of the wood.

Through the reprehensible want of foresight of General Howe, no cruiser was left in the vicinity, to warn British ships of his departure. The consequence was, that several store-ships from England soon after unsuspectingly sailed into the harbor, and fell into the hands of the Americans. One of these vessels had on board fifteen hundred barrels of gunpowder, and other munitions of war. Shortly after that, Lieutenant Colonel Campbell, with seven hundred men direct from Britain, sailed into the harbor and became prisoners.

VII.

BATTLES AND RETREAT FROM LONG ISLAND.

THE American army, in and near New York, amounted to seventeen thousand two hundred and twenty-five men, a part of whom were encamped near Brooklyn, on Long Island. On the 27th of August, this body of the Americans, under command of Brigadier-General Sullivan, were attacked by the British, under Sir Henry Clinton, Percy, and Cornwallis, and were defeated, with the loss of upwards of a thousand men, while the loss of the British amounted to less than four hundred. Gen Sullivan, and Brigadier-Generals Lord Stirling and Woodhull, fell into the hands of the British as prisoners.

In the heat of the engagement, General Washington had crossed over to Brooklyn from New York, and, on seeing some of his best troops slaughtered or taken, he uttered, it is said, an exclamation of anguish. But, deep as his anguish was, and much as he wished to succor his troops, prudence forbade the calling in of his forces from New York, as they would by no means have sufficed to render his army equal to that of the English.

After the repulse at Brooklyn, perceiving the occupation of his position on Long Island to be of no probable importance, Washington withdrew his troops to New York, and soon after evacuated the city, upon which on the 15th of September, the British entered it.

Seldom, if ever, was a retreat conducted with more ability and prudence, or under more favorable auspices, than that of the American troops from Long Island. The necessary preparations having been made, on the 29th of August, at eight in the evening, the troops began to move in the greatest silence. But they were not on board their vessels before eleven. A violent north-east wind, and the ebb-tide, which rendered the current very rapid, prevented the passage. The time pressed, however. Fortunately, the wind suddenly veered to the north-west. They immediately made sail, and landed in New York. Providence appeared to have watched over the Americans. About two o'clock in the morning, a thick fog, and at this season of the year extraordinary, covered all Long Island, whereas, the air was perfectly clear on the side of New York. Notwithstanding the entreaties of his officers, Washington remained the last upon the shore. It was not till the next morning, when the sun was already high, and the fog dispelled, that the English perceived the Americans had abandoned their camp, and were sheltered from pursuit.

On retiring from New York, General Washington, with his army, occupied for a short time the heights of Harlem, and several stations in that neighborhood.

On the 16th of September, the day after the British took possession of New York, a considerable body of the enemy appearing in the plains between the two camps, the General ordered Colonel Knowlton, with a corps of rangers, and Major Leitch, with three companies of a Virginia regiment to get in their rear, while he amused them by making apparent dispositions to attack their front. The plan succeeded. A skirmish ensued, in which the Americans charged the enemy with great intrepidity, and gained considerable advantage; but the principal benefit of this action was its influence in reviving the depressed spirits of the whole army. Major Leitch, who very gallantly led on the detachment, was soon brought off the ground, mortally wounded; and not long afterward, Colonel Knowlton fell, bravely fighting at the head of his troops. The Americans in this conflict engaged a battalion of light infantry, another of Highlanders, and three companies of Hessian riflemen; and lost about fifty men killed and wounded. The loss of the enemy was more than double that number.

Finding his position at Harlem and its vicinity untenable, Washington broke up his camp, and retired with a part of his forces to White Plains. Here, on the 28th of October, he was attacked by the British and Hessians, under Generals Howe, Clinton, Knyphausen and De Heister. A partial engagement ensued, and several hundreds fell on both sides; but neither party could claim any decided advantage.

Shortly after, a strong British reinforcement arriving, under Lord Percy, Washington, deeming his position unsafe, left it on the night of the thirtieth, and moved with his forces to North Castle, about five miles from White Plains. Leaving about 7500 under command of General Lee, Washington crossed the North River, and took post in the neighborhood of Fort Lee.

The British general, failing to draw Washington to a general engagement, next turned his attention to the reduction of Forts Washington and Lee, which had been garrisoned for the purpose of preserving the command of the Hudson River. On the sixteenth of November, the former of these forts was attacked by the British. The defence of the fort by the brave Colonel Magaw was spirited; but at length he was obliged to capitulate, and, with the fort, to surrender his whole force, consisting of between two thousand and three thousand men, on the eighteenth, the British Army, crossing the Hudson proceeded to the attack of Fort Lee.

The garrison in this fort, at first, determined to defend it; but ascertaining that the contest would be entirely unequal, they evacuated it, and, under the guidance of General Greene, joined Washington, who had at this time taken post at Newark, on the south side of the Passaic.

Finding Newark too near his triumphant foe, Washington retreated to Brunswick, on the Raritan, and Lord Cornwallis on the same day entered Newark. The retreat was still continued

from Brunswick to Princeton ; from Princeton to Trenton ; and from Trenton to the Pennsylvania side of the Delaware. The pursuit was urged with so much rapidity, that the rear of the American army, pulling down bridges, was often within sight and shot of the van of the enemy employed in building them up.

This retreat through New Jersey was made under circumstances of the deepest depression. The Americans had just lost the two forts Washington and Lee, and with the former more than two thousand men. Numbers of the militia were daily claiming to be discharged, and precipitately retired to their habitations ; and even the regular troops, as if struck with despair, also filed off, and deserted in bodies. This left the army of Washington so reduced, that it scarcely amounted to three thousand men.

VIII.

BATTLE OF TRENTON, 25TH DEC., 1776.

THATCHER, in his journal of the war under date of Jan. 1777, says : " At the close of the last year, the situation of our main army was gloomy and discouraging : a large proportion of the troops had retired from service, as their term of enlistment expired, and the small remains of our army were retreating before the enemy, and passed the Delaware for safety. It is now announced in our general orders, to our inexpressible joy and satisfaction, that the scene is in some degree changed, the fortune of war is reversed, and Providence has been pleased to crown the efforts of our commander-in-chief with a splendid victory. His excellency, having obtained information that the advanced party of the enemy, consisting of about fifteen hundred Hessians and British light-horse, under command of Colonel Rahl, was stationed at the village of Trenton, concerted a plan for taking them by surprise. For this purpose he made choice of Christmas night, under the idea that in consequence of the festivity, they might be less vigilantly guarded. At this time the whole force under his immediate command did not exceed three thousand men. At the head of about two thousand four hundred men, one division being commanded by General Greene, and the other by General Sullivan, he crossed the river Delaware in boats, in the night of the 25th of December, during a severe storm of snow and rain. The passage of the boats was rendered extremely difficult and hazardous by the ice, and part of the troops and cannon actually failed in the attempt. Having landed on the Jersey shore, he had nine miles to march, and he reached the village about seven o'clock in the morning with such promptitude and secrecy, as to attack the enemy almost as soon as his approach was discovered. A smart firing ensued, which

continued but a few minutes, when the enemy, finding themselves surrounded, threw down their arms and surrendered as prisoners. Colonel Rahl, the commanding officer, was mortally wounded, and seven other officers were wounded and left at Trenton on their parole. About thirty-five soldiers were killed, sixty wounded, and nine hundred and forty-eight, including thirty officers, were taken prisoners, amounting in all to one thousand and forty-eight. Of the Continentals not more than ten, it is supposed, were killed and wounded. General Washington recrossed the Delaware the same day in triumph, bringing off six excellent brass cannon, about one thousand two hundred small arms, and three standards, with a quantity of baggage, &c. This very brilliant achievement is highly honorable to the commander-in-chief, and to all that were engaged in the enterprise. We are sanguine in the hope that this most auspicious event will be productive of the happiest effects, by inspiring our dejected army, and discharging that panic of despair into which the people have been plunged. General Washington allowed the Hessian prisoners to retain their baggage, and sent them into the interior of Pennsylvania, ordering that they be treated with favor and humanity. This conduct, so contrary to their expectations, excited their gratitude and veneration for their amiable conqueror, whom they styled, "*a very good rebel.*"



BATTLE OF PRINCETON.

IX.

BRITISH ATTACKED AT PRINCETON.

JUSTLY elated with the success at Trenton, Washington soon after proceeded to Princeton, where, on the 1st of January, he attacked a party of British, of whom upwards of one hundred were killed, and the remainder, amounting to about three hundred, were made prisoners. The loss of the Americans was less than that of the British; but in that number were several valuable officers, and among them the brave General Mercer.

Soon after the above victories, Washington retired (January 6th, 1777) to winter quarters, at Morristown.

On the opening of the campaign of 1777, Washington quitted his winter encampment at Morristown, and, about the same time, the royal army moved from Brunswick, which they had occupied during the winter. Much shifting of the armies followed, but no definite plan of operation had apparently been settled by either.

Previous to this, however, General Howe sent a detachment of two thousand men, under command of General Tryon, General Agnew, and Sir William Erskine, to destroy some stores and provisions deposited at Danbury, in Connecticut. Meeting with no resistance, they reached Danbury on the 26th of April, and destroyed one thousand eight hundred barrels of beef and

pork, eight hundred of flour, two thousand bushels of grain, clothing for a regiment, one hundred hogsheads of rum, and one thousand seven hundred and ninety tents. Besides the destruction of these articles, the enemy wantonly burned eighteen houses with their furniture, murdered three unoffending inhabitants, and threw them into the flames.

Generals Sullivan, Wooster? and Arnold, happening to be in the neighborhood, hastily collected about six hundred militia, with whom they marched in pursuit, in a heavy rain, as far as Bethel, about two miles from Danbury. On the morning of the 27th of April, the troops were divided, General Wooster, with about three hundred men, falling in the rear of the enemy, while Arnold took post in front, at Ridgefield.

General Wooster proceeded to attack the enemy, in which engagement he was mortally wounded, and from which his troops were compelled to retire. At Ridgefield, Arnold warmly received the enemy on their retreat, and, although repulsed, returned to the attack the next day on their march to the Sound. Finding themselves continually annoyed by the resolute and courageous yeomanry of the country through which they passed, they hastened to embark on board their ships, in which they sailed for New York. Their killed, wounded and missing, amounted to about one hundred and seventy: the loss of the Americans was not admitted to exceed one hundred. General Wooster, now in his seventieth year, lingered with his wounds until the 2d of May. Congress resolved that a monument should be erected to his memory. To General Arnold they presented a horse, properly caparisoned, as a reward for his gallantry on the occasion.



BATTLE OF BENNINGTON.

X.

BATTLE OF BENNINGTON.

On the 15th of August 1777, Colonel Baum marched at the head of his army to execute the instructions of his General. He proceeded about twelve or thirteen miles, when he halted, and secured himself by intrenchments. It was a providential circumstance that General Stark was at or near Bennington, with about eight hundred New England militia, part of whom being from the New Hampshire grants, are called Green Mountain Boys. He advanced towards the enemy to reconnoitre their position, and some skirmishing ensued, in which thirty of them with two Indian chiefs were killed and wounded, with little loss on our side. Colonel Baum, alarmed at his situation, despatched a messenger to Burgoyne for a reinforcement. The 15th being a very rainy day, there was only some skirmishing in small parties. On the 16th, General Stark, assisted by Colonel Warner, matured his arrangements for battle; he divided his troops into three divisions, and ordered Colonel Nichols, with two hundred and fifty men, to gain the rear of the left wing, of the enemy, and Colonel Hendrick the rear of their right wing, with three hundred men, while he attacked their front. The Indians, alarmed, at the appearance of being surrounded, endeavored to make their escape in a single file between the two parties, with

their horrid yells and jingling of cowbells. The flanking parties approaching each other in their rear, and General Stark making a bold and furious onset in front, a general and close conflict ensued, and continued with more or less severity for about two hours. Though Colonel Baum had nearly twice their numbers, and was defended by brestworks, the force opposed to them proved irresistible, forcing their brestworks at the muzzles of their guns, and obliging them to ground their arms and surrender at discretion, so that the victory on our part was complete. We took two pieces of brass cannon, and a number of prisoners, with baggage, &c. This was hardly accomplished, when Colonel Breyman, with one thousand German troops, arrived with two field-pieces, to reinforce Colonel Baum, who had just been defeated. General Stark's troops were now scattered, some attending the wounded, some guarding the prisoners, and still more in pursuit of plunder; and all exhausted by extreme hunger and fatigue. At this critical moment, Colonel Warner's regiment arrived, and the other troops being rallied, the whole were ordered to advance. A field-piece had been taken from Baum in the forenoon, and Stark ordered it to be drawn to the scene of action, but his men having never seen a cannon, knew not how to load it; the general dismounted, and taught them by loading it himself. An action soon commenced, and proved warm and desperate, in which both sides displayed the most daring bravery, till night approached, when the enemy yielded a second time in one day to their Yankee conquerors. The German troops being totally routed, availed themselves of the darkness of night to effect their retreat. The whole number of killed, wounded and prisoners, was nine hundred and thirty-four, including one hundred and fifty-seven Tories; of this number, six hundred and fifty four are prisoners. Colonel Baum received a mortal wound, of which he soon after died. Besides the above, one thousand stand of arms, four brass field-pieces, two hundred and fifty dragoon swords, eight loads of baggage, and twenty horses, fell into our hands. The loss on our side is not more than one hundred in the whole. The officers and men engaged in this splendid enterprise merit all the praise which a grateful country can bestow; they fought disciplined troops completely accoutred, while they wielded their ordinary firelocks with scarce a bayonet, and at first without cannon. The consequences must be most auspicious as respects our affairs in the northern department. Burgoyne must feel the clipping of another wing, and it must diminish his confidence in his successful career. The event will also be productive of the happiest effects on the spirits of our militia, by increasing their confidence in their own prowess. The following anecdote deserves to be noticed for the honor of the person who is the subject of it, though his name has not been ascertained. A venerable old man had five sons in the field of

battle near Bennington, and being told that he had been unfortunate in one of his sons, replied, "What! has he misbehaved? did he desert his post, or shrink from the charge?" "No, sir," says the informant, "worse than that: he is among the slain; he fell contending mightily in the cause." "Then I am satisfied," replied the good old man; "bring him in, and lay him before me, that I may behold and survey the darling of my soul." On which the corpse was brought in and laid before him. He then called for a bowl of water and a napkin, and with his own hands washed the gore and dirt from his son's corpse, and wiped his gaping wounds, with a complacency, as he himself expressed it, which before he had never felt or experienced.

XI.

BATTLE OF STILLWATER AND SARATOGA.

THATCHER, in his journal of the war, under date of Oct. 8th 1777 says.

The anticipated important intelligence has just reached us, that a most severe engagement took place yesterday, between the two armies, at a place between Stillwater and Saratoga, called Bemis' Heights. It is supposed to be the hardest fought battle, and the most honorable to our army, of any since the commencement of hostilities. The enemy was completely repulsed in every quarter, and his defeat was attended with irreparable loss of officers, men, artillery, tents and baggage. Our officers and men acquired the highest honor; they fought like heroes, and their loss is very inconsiderable. General Arnold has received a wound in his leg. I am impatient to receive the particular details of this capital event.

9th and 10th.—I am fortunate enough to obtain from our officers, a particular account of the glorious event of the 7th instant. The advanced parties of the two armies came into contact, about three o'clock on Tuesday afternoon, and immediately displayed their hostile attitude. The Americans soon approached the royal army, and each party in defiance awaited the deadly blow. The gallant Colonel Morgan, at the head of his famous rifle corps, and Major Dearborn, leading a detachment of infantry, commenced the action, and rushed courageously on the British grenadiers, commanded by Major Ackland; and the furious attack was most firmly resisted. In all parts of the field, the conflict became extremely arduous and obstinate; an unconquerable spirit on each side disdaining to yield the palm of victory. Death appeared to have lost his terrors; breaches in the ranks were no sooner made than supplied by fresh combatants

awaiting a similar fate. At length the Americans press forward with renewed strength and ardor, and compel the whole British line, commanded by Burgoyne himself, to yield to their deadly fire, and they retreat in disorder. The German troops remain firmly posted at their lines; these were now boldly assaulted by Brigadier-General Learned and Lieutenant-Colonel Brooks, at the head of their respective commands, with such intrepidity, that the works were carried, and their brave commander, Lieutenant-Colonel Breyman, was slain. The Germans were pursued to their encampment, which, with all the equipage of the brigade, fell into our hands. Colonel Cilley, of General Poor's brigade, having acquitted himself honorably, was seen astride on a brass field-piece, exulting in the capture. Major Hull, of the Massachusetts line, was among those who so bravely stormed the enemy's intrenchment and acted a conspicuous part. General Arnold, in consequence of a serious misunderstanding with General Gates, was not vested with any command, by which he was exceedingly chagrined and irritated. He entered the field, however, and his conduct was marked with intemperate rashness; flourishing his sword and animating the troops, he struck an officer on the head without cause, and gave him a considerable wound. He exposed himself to every danger, and with a small party of riflemen, rushed into the rear of the enemy, where he received a ball which fractured his leg, and his horse was killed under him. Nightfall put a stop to our brilliant career, though the victory was most decisive, and it is with pride and exultation that we recount the triumph of American bravery. Besides Lieutenant-Colonel Breyman slain, General Frazer, one of the most valuable officers in the British service, was mortally wounded, and survived but a few hours.

"In the action of 7th October, 1777, Frazer was the soul of the British army, and was just changing the disposition of a part of the troops to repel a strong impression which the Americans had made, and were still making, on the British right, when Morgan called together two or three of his best marksmen, and pointing to Frazer, said, 'Do you see that gallant officer?—that is General Frazer—I respect and honor him; but it is necessary he should die.' This was enough. Frazer immediately received his mortal wound, and was carried off the field."

Sir Francis Clark, aid-de-camp to General Burgoyne, was brought into our camp with a mortal wound, and Major Ackland, who commanded the British grenadiers, was wounded through both legs, and is our prisoner. Several other officers and about two hundred privates are prisoners in our hands, with nine pieces of cannon and a considerable supply of ammunition, which was much wanted for our troops. The loss on our side is supposed not to exceed thirty killed and one hundred wounded, in obtaining this signal victory.

GEN. MARION.

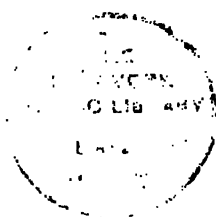
Having a spare page, we occupy it with the following incident.

Gen. Marion was one of the most distinguished men of the revolution, and is still held in the highest veneration by his descendants, and in fact by all who revere the memory of our revolutionary fathers.

Marion, by his daring and almost always successful exploits, became the terror of the enemy at the south, particularly of the Tories. For a long time he encamped upon Snow's Island a small spot of *terra firma* in a morass at the confluence of Lynch's Creek and the Pedee. There, assisted by natural defences, he made his impregnable fortress, and with his daring little band sallied forth as occasions offered, to harass the superior foe, to cut off his convoys, or to break up, before they could well embody, the gathering and undisciplined Tories. It was while encamped there towards the close of the preceding year, that an event occurred which, insignificant in itself, is peculiarly illustrative of the heroism displayed by the Americans at that period, under the greatest privations. A young British officer was sent from the post at Georgetown, to Marion's swamp encampment, to effect an exchange of prisoners. He had never seen Marion, and was greatly astonished at finding such a noted man so diminutive in size, especially when compared to the British generals then in the field, whose average weight, it is asserted, was more than 200 pounds. Having finished their business, the young officer prepared to depart, but was invited by Marion to stop and dine. The invitation was accepted, and the entertainment was served up on pieces of bark. It consisted entirely of roasted potatoes, of which the general ate heartily, and requested his guest to do the same, adding, "hunger is the best sauce." "But, surely, General," said the astonished officer, "this cannot be your ordinary fare?" "Indeed, sir, it is," he replied, "and we are fortunate, on this occasion, entertaining company, to have more than our usual allowance." It is said that the young officer, on returning to his post, threw up his commission, declaring that men who could contentedly endure such privations, were not to be subdued.—See *Sims' Life of Marion*, pp. 168—180.



SURRENDER OF BURGOYNE.



XII.

SURRENDER OF BURGOYNE.

On the night after the battles of Stillwater and Saratoga, Burgoyne retired to the high ground a little above Stillwater, and finally, with his whole army, retreated to Saratoga, and endeavored to continue his retrogression to Fort Edward. He was obliged to leave behind him about three hundred sick and wounded, which were taken care of in the best manner, by General Gates.

On the ninth, Burgoyne received intelligence from Sir Henry Clinton, of his operations among the lower Hudson highlands, and he was in hourly expectation of seeing an attack upon the American rear by British troops, which he doubted not were then as far north as Albany. This expedition was one inducement for him to delay his attempted retreat towards Fort Edward. Despairing of the arrival of Clinton, he made preparations to continue his retreat northward, on the right bank of the Hudson, and endeavor to reach Fort George, on the southern end of the lake of that name. But he was met by strong detachments of Americans at Fishkill, a small creek a little northward of Saratoga. Finding himself unable to retreat to Fort George by the right bank of the river, he determined to abandon his artillery, place about three days' provisions in the knapsacks of his soldiers, cross the river, dash through the American lines drawn out upon the opposite side, and, by this sudden movement, make his escape to the lakes, and reach the British shipping upon them.

Burgoyne, however, learned that the Americans were too strongly entrenched on the opposite side of the river, to render the success of his plans in the least probable, and he endeavored, as a last resort, to tempt the Americans out from their entrenchments, and engage in battle, notwithstanding his army was greatly reduced—a mere skeleton of what it was when he invested Ticonderoga. Finding his provisions exhausted, and no chance either for battle or retreat, he called a council of war, at which it was decided to open negotiations with General Gates to capitulate on the most honorable terms that might be procured.

A communication was accordingly sent to General Gates, offering to capitulate. He at once demanded the unconditional surrender of Burgoyne and his army as prisoners of war. He stipulated that the British troops should be drawn up in their encampment, and there ground their arms. To this Burgoyne replied, that rather than submit to such terms, he would rush upon the Americans at all hazards, determined to give no quarter, and if slain, to die as brave soldiers. Unwilling to insist upon extreme measures, which might unnecessary produce great effusion

of blood, and learning that Clinton was making a successful march up the Hudson, Gates humanely and prudently proposed an honorable surrender for Burgoyne. He agreed to accept of a surrender, and to grant them the "honors of war, and a free passage to Great Britain, on condition of their not serving again in North America during the contest." Considering the situation of the two armies, these terms were highly honorable to the British General, favorable to his nation, and reflected great credit upon the humanity and judgment of General Gates.

The articles of capitulation were signed on the seventeenth of October, and on the afternoon of that day the British troops marched out of their encampment down to the water side, to a place called the Old Ford, where they piled their arms at the word of command from their own officers. Several of the officers could scarcely pronounce the words, and many of the men wept as they grounded their arms. Gates was a man of fine feelings. He kept away from the spot himself, and he would not suffer his own people to be witnesses to the sad spectacle. Every possible courtesy was shown to the officers, and when the act of surrender was accomplished, the most friendly intercourse commenced between Generals Gates and Burgoyne.

The Baroness Reidesel, who accompanied her husband, Major-General Reidesel, during the whole of this campaign, and with Lady Ackland, endured all the privations of the camp, gives, in her very interesting narrative, the following pleasing account of her first interview with the American officers:—"As soon as the convention was signed, my husband sent a message to me to come over to him with my children. I seated myself once more in my dear calash, and then rode through the American camp. As I passed on, I observed, and this was a great consolation to me, that no one eyed me with looks of resentment, but that they all greeted us, and even showed compassion in their countenances at the sight of a woman with small children. I was, I confess, afraid to go over to the enemy, as it was quite a new situation to me. When I drew near the tents, a handsome man approached and met me, *took my children from the calash, and hugged and kissed them, which affected me almost to tears.* 'You tremble,' said he, addressing himself to me, 'be not afraid.' 'No,' I answered; 'you seem so kind and tender to my children, it inspires me with courage.' He now led me to the tent of General Gates, where I found Generals Burgoyne and Phillips, who were on friendly footing with the former. Burgoyne said to me, 'Never mind; your sorrows have now an end.' I answered him, 'that I should be reprehensible to have any cares, as he had none,' and I was pleased to see him on such friendly footing with General Gates. All the generals remained to dine with General Gates. The same gentleman who received me so kindly, now came and said to me, 'you will be very much embar-

passed to eat with these gentlemen; *come with your children to my tent, where I will prepare for you a frugal dinner, and give it with a free will.* I said, *'you are certainly a husband and a father, you have shown me so much kindness.'* I now found that he was GENERAL SCHUYLER!" She further states that General Schuyler invited her and also Burgoyne, to become his guests at Albany, which they accepted. They were treated with great hospitality. On the occasion Burgoyne remarked to General Schuyler, "You show me great kindness, though I have done you much injury;" alluding to the fact that he had caused Schuyler's beautiful house to be burnt. "That was the fate of war," replied the brave man; "let us say no more about it."

The surrender of Burgoyne was the most important event of the year; indeed it was one of the most important events of the whole war. There were surrendered five thousand seven hundred and ninety men, of all ranks; which number, added to the killed, wounded, and prisoners, lost by the army during the preceding part of the campaign, made altogether upwards of ten thousand men. There were also surrendered to the captors, thirty-five brass field-pieces, nearly five thousand muskets, and an immense quantity of other munitions of war. Thus, within the space of a few months, a powerful British army was entirely broken up, and the whole country, to the confines of Canada, fell into the quiet possession of the Americans.

The news of this brilliant victory caused the greatest joy throughout the whole country, and at once dispelled the gloom occasioned by the reverses upon the Delaware. The timid became bold, the tories were dismayed, and the patriots no longer doubted the final and speedy independence of the American States. Congress passed a vote of thanks to Generals Gates, Arnold, and Lincoln, and all the troops under their command; and also ordered a gold medal to be struck in honor of the event. "and in the name of the United States presented by the President to Major-General Gates."

XIII.

EVACUATION OF PHILADELPHIA AND BATTLE OF MONMOUTH.

Early on the morning of the eighteenth of June, General Clinton commenced his march from Philadelphia. The news of this movement of the British army was received by Washington while holding a council of war with his officers, to determine the number of the respective armies, and the chances of success in a general engagement.

The number of troops at Valley Forge was about eleven thousand on the eighth of May, when a private council was held; and the whole American force then in the field, including all the

garrisons at other places, did not exceed fifteen thousand men. The British army in Philadelphia and New York amounted to nearly thirty thousand, of which nineteen thousand were in the former place. There were besides three thousand seven hundred at Rhode Island.

In the meanwhile, General Maxwell had been ordered to cross the Delaware, and act in concert with General Dickenson, who was in command of the New Jersey militia. As soon as the British army had crossed the Delaware, a detachment under Arnold took possession of Philadelphia.

In consideration of his previous eminent services, and to allow him to recover from some wounds, and adjust some long accounts with Congress, Washington appointed Arnold to the tranquil post of military Governor of Philadelphia. Here was opened the first scene in the drama of his subsequent treason.

Generals Lee and Wayne took the road to Coryell's Ferry; and six days afterwards the whole American army landed upon the New Jersey shore, and marched to Hopewell, five miles from Princeton. The British army had crossed at Gloucester Point, and proceeded by way of Haddonfield and Mount Holly, to Allentown, where, in consequence of the approximation of Washington to his front, Clinton determined to keep him to the right, and took the road leading to Monmouth and Sandy Hook. He was greatly harassed all the way by Morgan's corps of six hundred riflemen hanging upon his right flank, while Generals Maxwell and Scott constantly galled the left and rear.

At Hopewell, Washington called a council of war, to discuss the best mode of attack upon the enemy. The council was divided, Lee and others advising to avoid a general battle, but to harass the enemy upon flank and rear. Finding these dissentient councils an impediment, Washington determined to act in accordance with the dictates of his own judgment, and at once sent forward between three and four thousand men to commence an attack, while he, with the rest of the army, remained a few miles behind, ready to support them if necessary. The command of this force was given to La Fayette and Wayne; and General Lee, who was next in command to Washington, was ordered with two additional brigades to join them.

Perceiving these threatening movements of the pursuing Americans, Clinton placed his baggage train in front, and his best men in the rear, and with his army thus arranged, encamped in a strong position near Monmouth Court House at Freehold. On the morning of the twenty-eight of June, the British front began to march, intelligence of which reached Washington about five o'clock, he being distant six or seven miles. He instantly put the army in motion, and despatched the light-horse of La Fayette to make an attack. The British wheeled, and, under Clinton and Cornwallis, made a furious charge, which compelled La

Fayette to fall back, much to the surprise of Lee, who was also advancing with about five thousand men. Lee at once ordered a retreat across a morass in his rear, to a strong position; but his troops mistaking his order, as he alleged, continued to retreat until they met the advance of the main army, under Washington, and thereby produced great confusion, no notice of the retreat having been given. Washington was greatly surprised and mortified at this unexpected retreat, and addressing Lee with much warmth, ordered him to rally his troops and bring them immediately into action.

General Lee was greatly irritated by the reprimand of Washington. His haughty pride was touched; and the next day he addressed two offensive letters to the Commander-in-chief, demanding reparation. He was soon put under arrest, charged with disobedience of orders; misbehavior before the enemy; and disrespect to the Commander-in-chief. He was found guilty of all the charges, and was sentenced to suspension from all command in the American army for one year. He left the service, and never returned to it. He died four years afterwards, in Philadelphia.

Lee promptly obeyed, and the order of battle was restored in time for him to oppose a powerful check to the advance of the enemy, until the main division came up.

Generals Green and Wayne simultaneously attacked the enemy's front and left flank. The battle became general, and lasted till night. Intending to renew the contest in the morning, Washington directed the troops to lie upon their arms, while he, wrapped in his cloak, passed the night upon the battle-field. At dawn the next morning, no enemy was to be seen, Sir Henry Clinton having silently withdrawn his troops during the night, and followed his baggage-train to Middlebrook. His position was there so strong, and so intense was the heat, and so exhausted were the Continental soldiers, that Washington deemed it expedient to abandon the pursuit. The battle, although favorable to the Americans, was not a decided victory; yet Congress viewed it somewhat in that light, and passed a vote of thanks to the commander and the army. The loss of the British was considerably more than that of the Americans. Four British officers, and two hundred and forty-five privates, were left dead on the field, and were buried by the Americans. The whole loss of the enemy was nearly three hundred. The American loss was sixty-nine killed. On both sides many died of the intense heat of the weather and the fatigues of the day.

After the battle of Monmouth, the British proceeded to Sandy Hook, where Lord Howe's fleet, which had come round from the Delaware, was in readiness to transport them to New York, at which place they arrived at evening of the same day on which the battle was fought. While marching through New Jersey,

Clinton's army was considerably reduced; the loss at Monmouth being the least moiety. One hundred were taken prisoners; and nearly six hundred deserted to Philadelphia, where many of them had formed tender attachments during the winter. When Clinton reached New York his army had suffered a reduction of at least two thousand men. The loss of men was more serious to the British than to the Americans, for the latter could soon recruit from the militia of the country. Washington crossed the Hudson and encamped at White Plains, where he remained until November, when he retired to winter-quarters, at Middlebrook, in New Jersey.

XIV.

REDUCTION OF STONY POINT.

THE campaign of 1779 was distinguished for nothing remarkable on the part of America. Scarcely an expedition was planned which merits any notice, and, with the exception of the reduction of Stony Point, forty miles north of New York, on the Hudson, scarcely any thing was accomplished of importance. The reduction of this place, July 15th, was one of the boldest enterprises which occurred in the history of the war.

At the time, Stony Point was in the condition of a real fortress; it was furnished with a select garrison of more than six hundred men, and had stores in abundance, and defensive preparations which were formidable.

Fortified as it was, General Washington ventured an attempt to reduce it. The enterprise was committed to General Wayne, who, with a strong detachment of active infantry, set out towards the place at noon. His march of fourteen miles, over high mountains, through deep morasses, and difficult defiles, was accomplished by eight o'clock in the evening.

At the distance of a mile from the Point, General Wayne halted, and formed his men into two columns, putting himself at the head of the right. Both columns were directed to march in order and silence, with unloaded muskets and fixed bayonets. At midnight, they arrived under the walls of the fort. An unexpected obstacle now presented itself: the deep morass, which covered the works, was, at this time, overflowed by the tide. The English opened a tremendous fire of musketry and of cannon loaded with grape-shot: but neither the inundated morass, nor a double palisade, nor the storm of fire that was poured upon them, could arrest the impetuosity of the Americans: they opened their way with the bayonet, prostrated whatever opposed them, scaled the fort, and the two columns met in the centre of the works. The English lost upwards of six hundred men in killed

and prisoners. The conquerors abstained from pillage, and from all disorder—a conduct the more worthy, as they had still present in mind the ravages and butcheries which their enemies had so recently committed, in Virginia and Connecticut. Humanity imparted new effulgence to the victory which valor had obtained.

Another expedition, planned and executed this year, entitled to some notice, was one under General Sullivan, against the Six Nations, which, with the exception of the Oneidas, had been induced by the English to take up arms against America.

At the head of between four and five thousand men, General Sullivan marched into the country, up the Susquehannah, and attacked the Indians, in well-constructed fortifications. The resistance of the savages was warlike. Being overpowered, however, they were obliged to flee. General Sullivan, according to his instructions, proceeded to lay waste their country. Forty villages were consumed, and one hundred and sixty thousand bushels of corn were destroyed.

XV.

BATTLE OF COWPENS.

AFTER the unfortunate battle at Camden, August 16th 1780. General Gates was superseded by the appointment of General Greene to the command. Greene established his head-quarters at Charlotte, where he collected his whole force, amounting to only about two thousand men. Notwithstanding this extreme feebleness in numbers, he despatched General Morgan to the western frontier of South Carolina, where the British and Tories were committing great devastations, to arrest their operations.

On the eleventh of January, General Leslie, with about fifteen hundred men, joined Cornwallis, and they prepared to march immediately into North Carolina, and press forward into Virginia. But Cornwallis was unwilling to allow Morgan to remain in his rear, and sent Tarleton to dislodge, and if possible, completely break up his forces—"to push him to the utmost." Colonel Washington, a nephew of the Commander-in-chief, was with Morgan, and they had a pretty large force of cavalry and riflemen, but the superior numbers of Tarleton obliged them at first to retreat. Tarleton hotly pursued them, and on reaching a place called Cowpens, about three miles from the division line between North and South Carolina, Morgan wheeled and gave battle. The first furious onset of the enemy caused the Americans to yield, and at the same time a party of the Republican regulars were dispersed and pursued by British cavalry under Ogilvie. Morgau rallied his men, and in one general charge upon the British lines they dispersed the enemy in every direction. Tarleton's squadron of cavalry had not yet encountered the Ameri-

cans, and seeing the panic of the British militia and the impetuous advance of the former they fled with the greatest precipitation. Quarter being promised to the enemy, a large number surrendered themselves prisoners of war. Colonel Washington pursued Tarleton several miles and slightly wounded him, but, with the most of his cavalry, he reached the camp of Cornwallis in safety. In this battle, the South Carolina militia under Colonel Pickens showed great bravery, as well as a body of cavalry under Colonel Howard. They proved that Tarleton's legion was not invincible. The British had ten commissioned officers and one hundred and twenty-nine privates killed, and twenty-nine officers and two hundred privates wounded. The Americans lost twelve men killed and sixty wounded. The Republicans took five hundred prisoners and a large quantity of arms and ammunition.

Eight hundred stand of arms, one hundred dragoon horses, thirty-five baggage-wagons, and two standards, fell into their hands. Two brass cannons which were taken from Burgoyne and captured by Cornwallis, at Camden, again became the property of the Americans. Congress honored General Morgan with a gold medal; and medals of silver were presented to Colonels Washington and Howard, a sword to Colonel Pickens, and a Brevet-Major's commission to Edward Giles, Morgan's aide-de-camp.

This battle, it has been justly remarked, proved, in the end, nearly as disastrous to Cornwallis as the battle of Bennington did to Burgoyne.

XVI.

BATTLE OF EUTAW SPRINGS.

THATCHER in his journal says:

A warm action took place early in September, between General Greene and the main body of the royal army, under Colonel Stuart, at Eutaw springs. Though inferior in force, General Greene sought the enemy, and made a furious attack; the battle became general, and continued four hours; it was the hottest and most bloody, for the numbers engaged, that General Greene ever witnessed; many of the officers combated sword to sword, and the soldiers, rushing together, with the point of the bayonet contended with increased rage and effort for life, for blood, and carnage. A party of the enemy possessed themselves of a three-story brick house and a picketed garden, which gave them considerable advantage, and saved their army from a total rout. In a charge, which decided the fate of the day in our favor, Lieutenant-Colonel Campbell, of the Virginia line, who with undaun-

ted firmness was leading on his brigade, received a mortal wound ; and, on being informed that the enemy were flying in all quarters, said, "I die contented." Lieutenant-Colonel Washington had his horse killed under him, was wounded and taken prisoner. The American loss is not less than sixty commissioned officers killed and wounded, one hundred and thirty rank and file killed, and three hundred and forty wounded and missing. The loss on the side of the British is supposed to be fully equal in point of numbers, excepting in officers, and five hundred men, including seventy wounded, which were left, were the next day made prisoners by our army. . Victory is claimed by both commanders, but the consequences have proved most disastrous to the enemy ; for the next day Colonel Stuart destroyed a large quantity of stores, abandoned his position, and leaving one thousand stand of arms and seventy wounded men, retired in haste towards Charleston.

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XVII.

SURRENDER OF CORNWALLIS AT YORKTOWN.

The works erected for the security of Yorktown, on the right, were redoubts and batteries, and a line of stockade in the rear, while in front was a marshy ravine, over which was placed a large redoubt. The Americans began operations on the evening of their arrival, and so silently and perseveringly did they work at their first parallel, that the next morning at dawn, greatly to the surprise and alarm of the enemy, it was so far completed as to protect the besiegers from the shots of the batteries. On the ninth and tenth of October, the Americans and French opened their batteries, and their shells and hot shot reached the English ships in the harbor, and destroyed a forty-four gun ship and a transport. The siege lasted seventeen days, the principal events during the time being the storming of two redoubts simultaneously; one by a party of American light infantry, the other by a detachment of French grenadiers and chasseurs; the former headed by La Fayette, the latter by the Baron de Viomenil. The advanced corps of the Americans was led by Colonel Alexander Hamilton, and in the action, Colonels Laurens, Gimat, and Barber, were distinguished.

The siege was vigorously kept up until the seventeenth of October, when Cornwallis proposed a cessation of hostilities, and the appointment of a commission to conclude upon terms for surrendering the posts of Yorktown and Gloucester. The proposition was accepted by Washington, commissioners were appointed, terms of surrender settled, and the articles were signed at the house of Mr. Moore, near the battle-ground, on the nineteenth of October.

According to the terms, all the troops in the garrison were to be made prisoners of war, and marched into the country; the artillery, arms, military chests, and all munitions of war, with shipping, boats, furniture, and apparel, were to be delivered up; the officers retaining their side-arms, and both officers and soldiers preserving their baggage and effects. The surrendering army was to receive the same honors as were granted by the British to the American garrison at Charleston. On the afternoon of the day on which the capitulation was signed, the garrison marched out, and laid down their arms. The soldiers were surrendered to Washington, and the shipping in the harbor to Count de Grasse. The whole number of prisoners was a little over seven thousand. The British lost during the siege in killed, between five and six hundred, the Americans lost about three hundred. The allied army at the time of the attack, consisted of about seven thousand American regular troops, five thousand French, and four thousand militia. The British force consisted only of

about one-half that number, and doubtless Cornwallis would have abandoned Yorktown before its investment, had he not confidently expected reinforcements from Clinton.

The surrender of Cornwallis sent a thrill of joy through the country, and, in effect, recovered into the power of Congress, the whole territory of the thirteen States. Public celebrations were held—illuminations, bonfires, the roar of cannon, and the voice of oratory, everywhere testified the universal joy; and Washington set apart a day for the performance of divine service in the army, enjoining the troops “to engage in it with a serious deportment, and that sensibility of heart which the surprising and particular interposition of Providence in their favor claimed.” As soon as Congress received intelligence of the joyful event, the members marched in procession to one of the principal churches in Philadelphia, and there publicly offered up thanksgiving to God for the signal success of the American arms. They also appointed the thirteenth of December as a day for public thanksgiving and prayer throughout the Union.

The fall of Cornwallis may be considered as substantially closing the war. A few posts of importance were still held by the British—New York, Charleston, and Savannah—but all other parts of the country, which they had possessed, were recovered into the power of congress. A few skirmishes alone indicated the continuance of war.

XVIII.

DISBANDING OF THE ARMY.

Although the definitive treaty was not signed until September, there had been no act of hostility between the two armies, and a state of peace had actually existed from the commencement of the year 1783. A formal proclamation of the cessation of hostilities was made through the army on the 19th of April; Savannah was evacuated in July, New York in November, and Charleston in the following month,

The third of November was fixed upon, by Congress, for disbanding the army of the United States. On the day previous, Washington issued his farewell orders, and bid an affectionate adieu to the soldiers, who had fought and bled by his side.

After mentioning the trying times through which he had passed, and the unexampled patience which, under every circumstance of suffering, his army had evinced, he passed to the glorious prospects opening before them and their country, and then bade them adieu in the following words: “Being now to conclude these his last public orders, to take his ultimate leave, in a short time, of the military character, and to bid a final adieu to the armies he had so long had the honor to command, he can on-

ly again offer in their behalf, his recommendations to their grateful country, and his prayer to the God of armies."

"May ample justice be done them here, and may the choicest favor, both here and hereafter, attend those, who, under the divine auspices, have secured innumerable blessings for others! With these wishes, and this benediction, the commander-in-chief is about to retire from service. The curtain of separation will soon be drawn, and the military scene to him will be closed forever."

Soon after taking leave of the army, General Washington was called to the still more painful hour of separation from his officers, greatly endeared to him by a long series of common sufferings and dangers.

The officers having previously assembled in New York for the purpose, General Washington now joined them, and, calling for a glass of wine, thus addressed them:—"With a heart full of love and gratitude, I now take my leave of you. I most devoutly wish that your latter days may be as prosperous and happy as your former ones have been glorious and honorable."

Having thus affectionately addressed them, he now took each by the hand and bade him farewell. Followed by them to the side of the Hudson, he entered a barge, and, while tears rolled down his cheeks, he turned towards the companions of his glory, and bade them a silent adieu.

December 23, Washington appeared in the hall of Congress, and resigned to them the commission which they had given him, as commander-in-chief of the armies of the United States.

After having spoken of the accomplishment of his wishes and exertions, in the independence of his country, and commended his officers and soldiers to Congress, he concluded as follows:

"I consider it an indispensable duty to close the last solemn act of my official life, by commending the interests of our dearest country to the protection of Almighty God, and those who have the superintendence of them, to his holy keeping."

"Having now finished the work assigned me, I retire from the great theatre of action; and, bidding an affectionate farewell to this august body, under whose orders I have long acted, I here offer my commission, and take my leave of all the employments of public life."

Upon accepting his commission, Congress, through their president, expressed, in glowing language, to Washington, their high sense of his wisdom and energy in conducting the war to so happy a termination, and invoked the choicest blessings upon his future life.

President Mifflin concluded as follows:—"We join you in commending the interest of our dearest country to the protection of Almighty God, beseeching Him to dispose the hearts and minds of its citizens to improve the opportunity afforded them of be-

coming a happy and respectable nation. And for you, we address to HIM our earnest prayers, that a life so beloved may be fostered with all His care; that your days may be as happy as they have been illustrious; and that He will finally give you that reward which this world cannot give."

A profound silence now pervaded the assembly. The grandeur of the scene, the recollection of the past, the felicity of the present, and hopes of the future, crowded fast upon all, while they united in invoking blessings upon the man, who, under God, had achieved so much, and who now, in the character of a mere citizen, was hastening to a long-desired repose at his seat at Mount Vernon in Virginia.

THIRD PERIOD.

WAR OF 1812 TO 1815 BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND GREAT BRITAIN.

I.

DECLARATION OF WAR.

On the 4th of June, 1812, a bill declaring war against Great Britain passed the house of representatives, by a majority of seventy-nine to forty-nine. After a discussion of this bill in the senate till the 17th, it passed that body also, by a majority of nineteen to thirteen, and, the succeeding day, 18th, received the signature of the President.

The principal grounds of war, set forth in a message of the president to congress, June 1st, and further explained by the committee on foreign relations, in their report on the subject of the message, were, summarily—The impressment of American seamen by the British; the blockade of her enemy's ports, supported by no adequate force, in consequence of which, the American commerce had been plundered in every sea, and the great staples of the country cut off from their legitimate markets; and the British order in council.

The military establishments of the United States, upon the declaration of war, were extremely defective. Acts of Congress permitted the enlistment of twenty-five thousand men; but few enlisted. The President was authorized to raise fifty thousand volunteers, and to call out one hundred thousand militia, for the purpose of defending the sea-coast and the frontiers. But the want of proper officers was now felt, as the ablest revolutionary heroes had paid the debt of nature. Such was the situation of things at the commencement of hostilities.

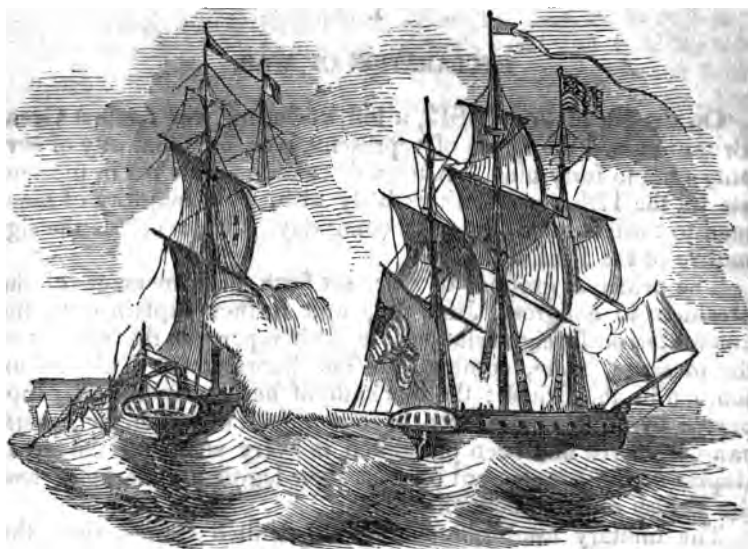
II.

SURRENDER OF GENERAL HULL,

On the 16th of August, General Hull, governor of Michigan, who had been sent, at the head of about two thousand five hundred men, to Detroit, with a view of putting an end to Indian hostilities in that country, surrendered his army to the British General, Brock, without a battle, and with it the fort of Detroit, together with all other forts and garrisons of the United States, within the district under his command.

The conduct of General Hull was subsequently investigated by a court-martial. He was charged with treason, cowardice, and

unofficer-like conduct. On the first charge, the court declined giving an opinion; on the two last, he was sentenced to death; and was recommended to mercy, in consequence of his revolutionary services, and his advanced age. The sentence was revoked by the President; but his name was ordered to be struck from the rolls of the army.



III.

BATTLE BETWEEN THE CONSTITUTION AND GUERRIERE.

On the 19th of August, three days after the unfortunate surrender of Detroit, that series of splendid naval achievements, for which this war was distinguished, was commenced by Capt. Isaac Hull, of the United States' frigate Constitution, who captured the British frigate Guerriere, commanded by Capt. Dacres.

On the memorable 19th of August, at two P. M. the Constitution being in latitude forty-one degrees and forty-two minutes north, and fifty-five degrees and thirty-three minutes west longitude, a vessel was discovered to the southward. The Constitution instantly made all sail in chase, and soon gained on her. At three P. M., it could plainly be perceived she was a ship, on the starboard tack, under easy sail, close hauled to the wind. At half past three, she was ascertained to be a frigate. The Constitution continued the chase. At about three miles distance, captain Hull ordered the light sails to be taken in, the courses to be hauled up, and the ship to be cleared for action. The chase now backed her main-top-sail, and waited for the Constitution to come down. As soon as the Constitution was ready for action,

she bore down, intending to bring immediately to close action the British frigate, which had about this time hoisted three English ensigns in token of defiance. As soon as the Constitution came within gun-shot, the British frigate fired her broadside; then filled away, wore, and gave a broadside on the other tack. They however, produced no effect; her shot fell short. The British frigate manœuvred and wore several times for about three quarters of an hour, in order to obtain a raking position. But not succeeding in this, she bore up under her top-sails and jib with the wind on the quarter. Captain Hull immediately made sail to bring his ship up with her. At five minutes before six, P. M. the Constitution being along side, within pistol-shot, he ordered a brisk firing to be commenced from all her guns, which were double-shotted with round and grape shot; and so well directed and so warmly kept up was the American fire, that, in fifteen minutes, the mizzen-mast of the British frigate went by the board, and her main-yard in her slings. Her hull was much injured; and her rigging and sails torn to pieces. The fire was kept up, in the same spirited manner, for fifteen minutes longer, by the Constitution. She had now taken a position for raking, on the bows of the British frigate; when the latter could only bring her bow guns to bear on the Constitution. The grape-shot and small arms of the Constitution completely swept the decks of the British frigate. Thirty minutes after the commencement of the action by the Constitution, the mainmast and foremast of the British frigate went by the board, taking with them every spar except the bowsprit. She then struck her colors, which had been fastened to the stump of the mizzen-mast. The Constitution then set fore and main-sails, and hauled to the eastward to repair damages. All her braces, a great part of her standing and running rigging, and some of her spars, were shot away. At seven, P. M. she stood under the lee of the prize, and sent a boat on board, which returned at eight with captain Dacres, commander of the frigate. She was the *Guerriere*, rating thirty-eight, and mounting forty-nine guns. The hull of the *Guerriere* was so much shattered, that a few more broadsides would have sunk her. She had fifteen men killed, sixty-one wounded, and twenty-four missing, who, it is presumed, were swept overboard by the falling masts. The Constitution had only seven killed, and seven wounded.

The boats were immediately employed in bringing the wounded and prisoners on board the Constitution. About two, A. M. a sail was discovered off the larboard beam, standing to the south. The ship was instantly cleared for action. At three, the vessel stood away. At daybreak, information was received from the lieutenant on board the prize, that the ship was in a sinking condition, and had four feet water in the hold. As soon as all her crew were removed from on board of her, she was set on fire, and blew up a quarter past three.

Captain Hull, in his letter to the secretary of the navy, says : —“ that, from the smallest boy in the ship, to the oldest seaman, not a look of fear was seen. They all went into action giving three cheers, and requesting to be laid along-side the enemy.”

In the heat of the engagement, one of the crew of the *Constitution*, perceiving the flag at the foretop-mast head had been shot away, went up with it, and lashed it so securely, as to render it impossible to shoot it away, unless the mast went with it.

The generosity of captain Hull and his crew was equal to their bravery. Captain Dacres, in his official letter, confesses their conduct to have been “ that of a brave enemy ; the greatest care being taken to prevent the men losing the slightest article, and the greatest attention being paid to the wounded.”

The *Constitution* arrived in Boston harbor the 30th day of August. When Captain Hull landed, he was received with every demonstration of affection and respect. The Washington Artillery, posted on the wharf, welcomed him with a federal salute, which was returned from the *Constitution*. An immense assemblage of citizens made the air ring with loud and unanimous huzzas, which were repeated on his passage up State Street to the Exchange Coffee House. The street was beautifully decorated with American flags.

On the 13th of August, another naval victory was achieved—the United States’ frigate *Essex*, Captain Porter, falling in with and capturing the British sloop-of-war *Alert*, after an action of only eight minutes.

This engagement took place off the Grand Bank of Newfoundland. A single broadside from the American frigate so completely riddled the sloop, that, on striking her colors, although she had but three men wounded, she had seven feet of water in her hold. The frigate suffered not the slightest injury.

Upon the declaration of war, the attention of the American commander-in-chief, General Dearborn, was turned towards the invasion of Canada, for which eight, or ten thousand men, and considerable military stores, were collected, at different points along the Canada line. Skillful officers of the navy were also despatched, for the purpose of arming vessels on Lakes Erie, Ontario, and Champlain, if possible to gain the ascendancy there, and to aid the operations of the American forces.

The American troops were distributed into three divisions—one under General Harrison, called the *Northwestern* army ; a second under General Stephen Van Rensselaer, at Lewistown, called the army of the *Centre* ; and a third under the commander-in-chief, General Dearborn, in the neighborhood of Plattsburg and Greenbush, called the army of the *North*.

Early on the morning of the 13th of October, 1812, a detachment of about one thousand men, from the army of the centre, crossed the river Niagara, and attacked the British on Queens-

town hights. This detachment, under the command of Colonel Solomon Van Rensselaer, succeeded in dislodging the enemy; but not being reinforced by the militia from the American side, as was expected, they were ultimately repulsed, and were obliged to surrender. The British General, Brock, was killed during the engagement.

The forces designated to storm the heights, were divided into two columns; one of three hundred militia, under Colonel Van Rensselaer; the other of three hundred regulars, under Colonel Christie. These were to be followed by Colonel Fenwick's artillery and afterwards the residue of the troops.

Scarcely had Colonel Van Rensselaer effected a landing, before he was severely wounded; upon which the troops, now under command of Captain Wood, advanced to storm the fort. Of this they gained possession; but, at the moment of success, General Brock, arrived from Fort George, with a reinforcement of six hundred men. These were gallantly driven back by the Americans. In attempting to rally them, the heroic Brock was killed.

General Van Rensselaer, who had previously crossed over, now returned to hasten the embarkation of the "tardy" militia. But what was his chagrin, to hear more than twelve hundred men, who a little before were panting for the battle, refuse to embark! He urged, entreated, commanded—but all in vain. Meanwhile, the enemy being reinforced, a desperate conflict ensued, and in the end the British were completely victorious. Had, however, but a small part of the "idle men" passed over at the critical moment, when urged by their brave commander, revolutionary history can tell of few nobler achievements than this would have been.

On the 17th of October, another naval victory was achieved over an enemy decidedly superior in force, and under circumstances the most favorable to him. This was the capture of the brig *Frolic*, of twenty-two guns, by the sloop-of-war *Wasp*.

Captain Jones had returned from France two weeks after the declaration of war, and, on the 13th of October, again put to sea. On the 17th, he fell in with six merchant ships, under convoy of a brig, and two ships, armed with sixteen guns each. The brig, which proved to be the *Frolic*, Captain Whinyates, dropped behind, while the others made sail. At half past eleven, the action began by the enemy's cannon and musketry. In five minutes, the main-top-mast was shot away, and, falling down with the main-top-sail yard across the larboard fore and fore-top-sail, rendered her head yards unmanageable, during the rest of the action. In two minutes more, her gaff and mizzen top-gallant-mast were shot away. The sea being exceedingly rough, the muzzles of the *Wasp's* guns were sometimes under water.

The English fired as their vessel rose, so that their shots was



UNITED STATES AND MACEDONIAN.



either thrown away, or touched only the rigging of the American; the Wasp on the contrary, fired as she sunk, and every time struck the hull of her antagonist. The fire of the Frolic was soon slackened, and Captain Jones determined to board her. As the crew leaped on board the enemy's vessel, their surprise can scarcely be imagined, as they found no person on deck, except three officers and the seaman at the wheel. The deck was slippery with blood, and presented a scene of havoc and ruin. The officers now threw down their swords in submission, and Lieutenant Biddle, of the Wasp, leaped into the rigging, to haul down the colors, which were still flying. Thus, in forty-three minutes, ended one of the most bloody conflicts recorded in naval history. The loss on board the Frolic was thirty killed and fifty wounded; on board the Wasp five were killed and five slightly wounded. The Wasp and Frolic were both captured the same day, by a British seventy-four, the Poictiers, Captain Beresford.

The above splendid achievement of Captain Jones was followed, on the 25th of October, by another not much less splendid and decisive, by Commodore Decatur, of the frigate United States, of forty-four guns, who captured the Macedonian off the Western Isles, a frigate of the largest class, mounting forty-nine guns, and manned with three hundred men.

In this action, which continued an hour and a half, the Macedonian lost thirty-six killed, and sixty-eight wounded: on board the United States, seven only were killed, and five wounded. The British frigate lost her main-mast, main-top-mast, and main-yard, and was injured in her hull. The United States suffered so little, that a return to port was unnecessary.

An act of generosity and benevolence, on the part of our brave tars of this victorious frigate, deserves to be honorably recorded. The carpenter, who was unfortunately killed in the conflict with the Macedonian, had left three small children to the care of a worthless mother. When the circumstance became known to the brave seamen, they instantly made a contribution among themselves, to the amount of eight hundred dollars, and placed it in safe hands, to be appropriated to the education and maintenance of the unhappy orphans.

December 29th, a second naval victory was achieved by the Constitution, at this time commanded by Commodore Bainbridge, over the Java, a British frigate of thirty-eight guns, but carrying forty-nine, with four hundred men, commanded by Captain Lambert, who was mortally wounded.

This action was fought off St. Salvador, and continued nearly two hours, when the Java struck, having lost sixty killed and one hundred and twenty wounded. The Constitution had nine men killed and twenty-five wounded. On the 1st of January, the commander, finding his prize incapable of being brought in, was obliged to burn her.

Thus ended the year 1812. With the exception of the naval victories already mentioned, and some others of the same kind, equally honorable to America, nothing important was achieved. Neither of the armies destined for the invasion of Canada had obtained any decisive advantage, or were in possession of any post in that territory. Further preparations, however, were making for its conquest. Naval armaments were collecting on the lakes, and the soldiers, in their winter-quarters, were looking forward to "battles fought and victories won."

CAMPAIGN OF 1813.

IV.

The military operations of the campaign of 1813 were considerably diversified, extending along the whole northern frontier of the United States. The locations of the several divisions of the American forces was as follow :—The army of the west, under General Harrison, was placed near the head of Lake Erie; the army of the centre, under General Dearborn, between the Lakes Ontario and Erie; and the army of the north, under General Hampton, on the shores of Lake Champlain. The British forces in Canada were under the general superintendence of Sir George Provost, under whom Colonels Proctor and Vincent had in charge the defence of the Upper Provinces; while the care of the Lower Provinces was committed to General Sheaffe.

The head-quarters of General Harrison, on the commencement of winter, were at Franklinton, in Ohio. The plan of this general had for its object to concentrate a considerable force at the Rapids, where he designed to make an attack upon Detroit, which was still in the possession of the British. In the meanwhile, General Winchester continued at Fort Defiance, with about eight hundred men, chiefly from the most respectable families in Kentucky. Early in January, intimations were received from the inhabitants of the village of Frenchtown, which is situated on the river Raisin, twenty-six miles from Detroit, that a large body of British and Indians were about to concentrate at that place. Exposed as they must be from the presence of a ferocious enemy, they sought protection from the American general. Contrary to the general plan of the commander-in-chief, Winchester resolved to send a force to their relief, and accordingly detached a body of men, with orders to wait at Presque Isle, until joined by the main body.

On reaching the latter place, it was ascertained that a party of British and Indians had already taken possession of Frenchtown. The resolution was immediately taken to attack them, without waiting for the arrival of Winchester. In this attack the Ameri-

cans were successful, and, having driven the enemy from the place, they encamped on the spot, where they remained until the twentieth, when they were joined by General Winchester. The American force now exceeded 750 men. Here, on the morning of January 22d, the Americans were suddenly attacked by a combined force of British and Indians, under General Proctor. Unfortunately, the Americans were signally routed—many of them were killed, and not far from five hundred were taken prisoners, among whom was General Winchester. After the surrender, nearly all the American prisoners were inhumanly butchered by the savages, although Proctor had pledged his honor, that their lives and private property should be secure.

Scarcely had the Americans surrendered, than, contrary to express stipulations, the swords of the officers were taken from them, and many of them were stripped almost naked, and robbed. The dead also were stripped and scalped, while the tomahawk put an end at once to such of the wounded as were unable to rise. The prisoners who now remained, with but few exceptions, instead of being guarded by British soldiers, were delivered to the charge of the Indians, to be conducted in the rear of the army to Malden. But few of them, however, ever reached the British garrison, being either inhumanly murdered by the Indians at the time, or reserved to be roasted at the stake, or to be ransomed at an exorbitant charge.

By this bloody tragedy, all Kentucky, observes an historian, was literally in mourning; for the soldiers thus massacred, tortured, burnt, or denied the common rites of sepulture, were of the most respectable families of the state; many of them young men of fortune and property, with numerous friends and relatives. The remains of these brave youth lay on the ground, beat by the storms of heaven, and exposed to the beasts of the forest, until the ensuing autumn, when their friends and relations ventured to gather up their bleaching bones, and consigned them to the tomb.

Historians do not agree as to the number of American troops. Dr. Holmes states the number at 1100. The force of Proctor consisted, according to this author, of 300 British troops, and 600 Indians.

V.

On the 23d of January, the day following the memorable action of Frenchtown, an engagement took place between the Hornet, Captain James Lawrence, and the British sloop-of-war Peacock, Captain William Peake, off South America. This action lasted but fifteen minutes, when the Peacock struck.

On surrendering, a signal of distress was discovered on board the Peacock. She had been so much damaged, that already,

she had six feet of water in her hold, and was sinking fast. Boats were immediately despatched for the wounded, and every measure taken, which was practicable, to keep her afloat until the crew could be removed. Her guns were thrown overboard, the shot-holes were plugged, and a part of the *Hornet's* crew, at the imminent hazard of their lives, labored incessantly to rescue the vanquished. The utmost efforts of these generous men were, however, vain; the conquered vessel sunk in the midst of them, carrying down nine of her own crew and three of the Americans. With a generosity becoming them, the crew of the *Hornet* divided their clothing with the prisoners, who were left destitute by the sinking ship. In the action, the *Hornet* received but a slight injury. The killed and wounded, on board the *Peacock*, were supposed to exceed fifty.

VI

About the middle of April, General Pike, by order of General Dearborn, embarked, with 1700 men, on board a flotilla, under command of Commodore Chauncey, from Sacket's Harbor, for the purpose of attacking York, the capital of Upper Canada, the great depository of British military stores, whence the western posts were supplied. On the 27th, an attack was successfully made, and York fell into the hands of the Americans, with all its stores.

The command of the troops, one thousand seven hundred, detached for this purpose, was given to General Pike, at his own request. On the 25th, the fleet, under Commodore Chauncey, moved down the lake, with the troops, and, on the 27th, arrived at the place of debarkation, about two miles westward from York, and one and a half from the enemy's works. The British, consisting of about seven hundred and fifty regulars and five hundred Indians, under General Sheaffe, attempted to oppose the landing, but were thrown into disorder, and fled to their garrison.

General Pike, having formed his men, proceeded towards the enemy's fortifications. On their near approach to the barracks, about sixty rods from the garrison, an explosion of a magazine took place, previously prepared for the purpose, which killed about one hundred of the Americans, among whom was the gallant Pike.

Pike lived to direct his troops, for a moment thrown into disorder, "to move on." This they now did under Colonel Pierce; and, proceeding towards the town, took possession of the barracks. On approaching it, they were met by the officers of the Canada militia, with offers of capitulation. At four o'clock, the troops entered the town.

The loss of the British, in killed, wounded, and prisoners,

amounted to seven hundred and fifty; the Americans lost, in killed and wounded, about three hundred.

VII.

The news of the unfortunate occurrence at Frenchtown reached General Harrison, while on his march with reinforcements to General Winchester. Finding a further advance of no importance, he took post at the Rapids, where he constructed a fort, which, in honor of the governor of Ohio, he named Fort Meigs. Here, on the first of May, he was besieged by General Proctor, with a force of one thousand regulars and militia, and one thousand two hundred Indians. For nine days, the siege was urged with great zeal; but, finding the capture of the place impracticable, on the 9th, Proctor raised the siege, and retreated to Malden. General Harrison returned to Franklinton, in Ohio, leaving the fort under the care of General Clay.

On the third day of the siege, an officer from the British demanded the surrender of the fort; to which Harrison characteristically replied, "Not sir, while I have the honor to command."

On the fifth, intelligence was received of the approach of a reinforcement of American troops under General Clay from Kentucky. Aided by these, a sortie was made upon the British, which proved so disastrous to both, that, for the three following days, hostilities were suspended, and prisoners exchanged. On the ninth, preparations were made to renew the siege; but, suddenly, the British general ordered it to be raised, and with his whole force retired.

During the remainder of the spring, the war continued along the Canada line, and on some parts of the sea-board; but nothing important was achieved by either power.

The Chesapeake Bay was blockaded by the British, and predatory excursions, by their troops, were made at Havre de Grace, Georgetown, &c. Several villages were burnt, and much property plundered and destroyed. To the north of the Chesapeake, the coast was not exempt from the effects of the war. A strict blockade was kept up at New York. The American frigates *United States* and *Macedonian*, and the sloop *Hornet*, attempted to sail on a cruise from that port, about the beginning of May, but were prevented. In another attempt, they were chased into New London harbor, where they were blockaded by a fleet under Commodore Hardy, for many months. Fort George, in Canada, was taken by the Americans. Sacket's Harbor was attacked by one thousand British, who were repulsed with considerable loss.

On the first of June, the American navy experienced no inconsiderable loss, in the capture of the Chesapeake, by the British frigate *Shannon*, off Boston harbor—a loss the more severely

felt, as on board of her fell several brave officers, among whom was her commander, the distinguished and lamented Captain Lawrence.

Captain Lawrence had been but recently promoted to the command of the Chesapeake. On his arrival at Boston, to take charge of her, he was informed that a British frigate was lying off the harbor, apparently inviting an attack. Prompted by the ardor which pervaded the service, he resolved to meet the enemy, without sufficiently examining his strength. With a crew chiefly enlisted for the occasion, as that of the Chesapeake had mostly been discharged, on the first of June, he sailed out of the harbor.

The Shannon, observing the Chesapeake put to sea, immediately followed. At half past five, the two ships engaged. By the first broadside, the sailing-master of the Chesapeake was killed, and Lieutenant Ballard mortally wounded. Lieutenant Brown and Captain Lawrence were severely wounded at the same time. A second and third broadside, besides adding to the destruction of her officers, so disabled the Chesapeake in her rigging, that her quarter fell on the Shannon's anchor. This accident may be considered as deciding the contest; an opportunity was given the enemy to rake the Chesapeake, and, toward the close of the action, to board her. Captain Lawrence, though severely wounded, still kept the deck. In the act of summoning the boarders, a musket ball entered his body, and brought him down. As he was carried below, he issued a last heroic order — "*Don't give up the ship*;" but it was too late to retrieve what was lost; the British boarders leaped into the vessel, and, after a short but bloody struggle, hoisted the British flag.

In this sanguinary conflict, twenty-three of the enemy were killed, and fifty wounded: on board the Chesapeake, about seventy were killed, and eighty-three wounded.

The tide of fortune seemed now, for a short time, to turn in favor of Great Britain. On the 14th of August, the Argus, of eighteen guns, another of our national vessels, was captured by the Pelican, of twenty guns.

The Argus had been employed to carry out Mr Crawford, as minister, to France. After landing him, she proceeded to cruise in the British channel, and, for two months, greatly annoyed the British shipping. At length, that government was induced to send several vessels in pursuit of her. On the 14th of August, the Pelican, a sloop-of-war, of superior force, discovered her, and bore down to action. At the first broadside, Captain Allen fell, severely wounded, but remained on deck for some time, when it was necessary to carry him below. After a hard-fought action, the Argus was obliged to surrender, with a loss of six killed and seventeen wounded. On board the Pelican there were but three

killed and five wounded. Captain Allen died soon after in England, and was interred with the honors of war.

VIII.

After the loss of the Chesapeake and Argus, victory again returned to the side of America. On the 5th of September following, the British brig Boxer surrendered to the Enterprise, after an engagement of little more than half an hour.

The Enterprise sailed from Portsmouth on the 1st, and was on the 5th descried by the Boxer, which immediately gave chase. After the action had continued for fifteen minutes, the Enterprise ranged ahead, and raked her enemy so powerfully, that in twenty minutes the firing ceased, and the cry of quarter was heard. The Enterprise had one killed and thirteen wounded; but that one was her lamented commander, Lieutenant Burrows. He fell at the commencement of the action, but continued to cheer his crew, averring that the flag should never be struck. When the sword of the enemy was presented to him, he exclaimed, "I die contented." The British loss was more considerable. Among their killed was Captain Blythe. These two commanders, both in the morning of life, were interred beside each other, at Portland with military honors.



BATTLE OF LAKE ERIE.



IX.

BATTLE OF LAKE ERIE AND CAPTURE OF THE WHOLE BRITISH SQUADRON BY COMMODORE PERRY.

During these occurrences on the sea-board, important preparations had been made for decisive measures to the westward, and and the general attention was now turned, with great anxiety, towards the movements of the north-western army, and the fleet under command of Commodore Perry, on Lake Erie.

This anxiety, not long after, was, in a measure, dispelled, by a decisive victory of the American fleet over that of the British, on Lake Erie, achieved, after a long and desperate conflict, on the 10th of September.

The American squadron consisted of nine vessels, carrying fifty-four guns; that of the British, of six vessels, and sixty-three guns. The line of battle was formed at eleven, and at a quarter before twelve, the enemy's flag ship, *Queen Charlotte*, opened a tremendous fire upon the *Lawrence*, the flag ship of Commodore Perry, which was sustained by the latter ten minutes before she could bring her carronades to bear. At length she bore up and engaged the enemy, making signals to the remainder of the squadron to hasten to her support. Unfortunately, the wind was too light to admit of a compliance with the order, and she was compelled to contend, for two hours, with two ships of equal force. By this time, the brig had become unmanageable, and her crew, excepting four or five, were either killed or wounded.

While thus surrounded with death, and destruction still pouring in upon him, Perry left the brig, now only a wreck, in an open boat, and, heroically waving his sword, passed unhurt to the *Niagara*, of twenty guns. The wind now rose. Ordering every canvass to be spread, he bore down upon the enemy—passing the enemy's vessels *Detroit*, *Queen Charlotte*, and *Lady Prevost*, on the one side, and the *Chippewa* and *Little Belt* on the other, into each of which he poured a broadside,—he at length engaged the *Lady Prevost*, which received so heavy a fire as to compel her men to retire below.

The remainder of the American squadron, now, one after another, arrived, and, following the example of their intrepid leader, closed in with the enemy, and the battle became general.

Three hours finished the contest, and enabled Perry to announce to General Harrison the capture of the whole squadron, which he did in this modest, laconic, and emphatic style:—"We have met the enemy, and they are ours."

The loss in the contest was great in proportion to the numbers engaged. The Americans had twenty-seven killed and ninety-six wounded. But the British loss was still greater, being about two hundred in killed and wounded. The prisoners amounted

to six hundred, exceeding the whole number of Americans engaged in the action.

The following account of the battle on Lake Erie, is taken from Clark's Naval History.

On the morning of the tenth of September, the British fleet was discovered by Commodore Perry from Put in Bay, where he then lay at anchor. Commodore Perry immediately got under way with his squadron, and stood for the British fleet. The wind at that time was light from southwest. At fifteen minutes before twelve, the British commenced firing: and at five minutes before twelve, the action commenced on the part of the Americans. As the fire of the British, owing to their long guns, was very severe upon the Americans, and was principally directed at the *Lawrence*, Commodore Perry resolved to close with them: he accordingly made sail, and ordered the other vessels to follow. Every brace and bowline of the *Lawrence* being shot away, she became unmanageable, notwithstanding the great exertions of the sailing master. In this situation she sustained the action, within cannon distance, upwards of two hours, until every gun was rendered useless, and the greater part of her crew either killed or wounded.

After a display of skill and gallantry, which, alone, would have been sufficient to have immortalized Commodore Perry—after defending his vessel against a far superior force, to the very last extremity, this illustrious hero, at a critical moment, when, to almost any other mind, the contest would have appeared hopeless, resolved to save his country's honor, or perish in the attempt. He therefore quitted the *Lawrence* in an open boat, and rowed off for the *Niagara*, to make one more display of his herosim and talents. In his passage, there were no less than three broadsides fired at him by the British vessel, which he passed. Heaven interposed its protecting arm. He escaped the apparently inevitable destruction. He reached the *Niagara* in safety, and a breeze springing up, enabled Captain Elliot, who commanded that vessel, to bring her into close action in a very gallant manner. Captain Elliot anticipated the Commodore's desires by volunteering to bring the schooners, which had, by the lightness of the wind, been kept astern, into close action. Some time after Commodore Perry had left the *Lawrence* her flag was lowered; for, having been so long exposed to nearly the whole fire of the British fleet, she was almost cut to pieces; and the chief part of her crew disabled, only eight men remaining capable of doing duty. The British however were not in a state to take possession of her, and circumstances soon permitted her flag to be again hoisted. At forty-five minutes past two, the signal was made for close action. As the *Niagara* was very little injured, Commodore Perry determined to pass through the enemy's line with her.

He accordingly bore up, and passed ahead of their two ships and a brig, giving a raking fire to them from his larboard side, at half pistol shot distance. The smaller vessels were by this time within grape and cannister distance, under the direction of Captain Elliot. The severe and well directed fire from them and the Niagara, forced the two ships, the brig, and a schooner to surrender. A sloop and a schooner attempted to escape, but were overtaken and captured.

The Lawrence was so completely cut up, that after the action, she was sent to Erie to be dismantled. Lieutenant Yarnell, upon whom the command of the Lawrence devolved after the Commodore left her, refused to quit the deck though several times wounded. Lieutenant Brooke of the mariners and midshipman Saul, were both killed on board the Lawrence. As the surgeon of this vessel was stooping, in the act of dressing or examining a wound, a ball passed through the ship a few inches from his head, which, had it been erect must have been taken off. Mr. Hambleton, purser, distinguished himself, and towards the close of the action was severely wounded.

On board the Niagara, Lieutenants Smith and Edwards and midshipman Webster behaved in a very handsome manner. Captain Brevoort of the army, who, with the men under his command, had volunteered to act as marines, did great execution with his musketry. Lieutenant Turner, who commanded the Caledonia, brought his vessel into action in the most gallant style. The Ariel, Lieutenant Packet, and Scorpion, sailing master Champlin, got early into the action, and were of great service. The purser Magrath performed essential service. Captain Elliot particularly distinguished himself by his exertion and skill.

The following is an estimate of the killed and wounded on board the American fleet.

	Killed.	Wounded.	Total.
Lawrence	22	61	83
Niagara	2	25	27
Caledonia		3	3
Somers		2	2
Ariel	1	3	4
Trippe		2	2
Scorpion	2		2
	<hr/> 27	<hr/> 96	<hr/> 123

Of the British fleet the Captain and the first Lieutenant of the Queen Charlotte, were killed. Commodore Barclay of the Lady Prevost was severely wounded, and lost his hand. The loss of the British in killed and wounded has been estimated at one hundred and sixty.

The rejoicing at this victory in the United States, was extremely great. All the principal towns were illuminated

X.

FALL OF DETROIT AND DEATH OF TECUMSEH.

The Americans being now masters of Lake Erie, a passage to the territory which had been surrendered by General Hull was open to them. With a view of making a descent upon Malden and Detroit, General Harrison called on a portion of the Ohio militia, which, together with 4000 Kentuckians, under Governor Shelby, and his own regular troops, constituted his force; for the above object.

On the 27th of September, the troops were received on board the fleet, and on the same day reached Malden. But, to their surprise, they found that fortress and the public storehouses burned.

On the following day, the Americans marched in pursuit of Proctor and his troops; and on the 29th entered, and took possession of Detroit.

Leaving Detroit on the second of October, Harrison and Shelby proceeded with 3500 men, selected for the purpose, and, on the fifth, reached the place of Proctor's encampment, which was the Moravian village, on the Thames, about eighty miles from Detroit. The American troops were immediately formed in the order of battle, and the armies engaged with the most determined courage. In this contest, the celebrated Tecumseh was slain. Upon his fall, the Indians immediately fled. This led to the defeat of the whole British force, which surrendered, except about two hundred dragoons, which, with Proctor at their head, were enabled to escape.

Of the British, nineteen regulars were killed, fifty wounded, and six hundred made prisoners. The Indians left one hundred and twenty on the field. The loss of the Americans was upwards of fifty, in killed and wounded. On this field of battle, the latter had the pleasure to retake six brass field pieces, which had been surrendered by Hull; on two of which were inscribed the words, "Surrendered by Burgoyne, at Saratoga."

Tecumseh, who fell in this battle, was in several respects the most celebrated Indian warrior which ever raised an arm against the Americans. "He had been in almost every engagement with the whites, since Harmer's defeat, although at his death he scarcely exceeded forty years of age. Tecumseh had received the stamp of greatness from the hand of nature; and, had his lot been cast in a different state of society, he would have shone one of the most distinguished of men. He was endowed with a powerful mind, with the soul of a hero. There was an uncommon dignity in his countenance and manners; by the former, he could easily be discovered, even after death, among the rest of the slain, for he wore no insignia of distinction. When gird-

ed with a silk sash, and told by General Proctor that he was made a brigadier in the British service, for his conduct at Brownstown and Magagua, he returned the present with respectful contempt. Born with no title to command, but his native greatness, every tribe yielded submission to him at once, and no one ever disputed his precedence. Subtle and fierce in war, he was possessed of uncommon eloquence: his speeches might bear a comparison with those of the most celebrated orators of Greece and Rome. His invective was terrible, as may be seen in the reproaches which he applied to Proctor, a few days before his death, in a speech which was found among the papers of the British officers. His form was uncommonly elegant; his stature about six feet, his limbs perfectly proportioned. He was honorably interred by the victors, by whom he was held in much respect, as an inveterate, but magnanimous enemy."

The fall of Detroit put an end to the Indian war in that quarter, and gave security to the frontiers. General Harrison now dismissed a greater part of his volunteers, and, having stationed General Cass at Detroit, with about one thousand men, proceeded, according to his instructions, with the remainder of his forces, to Buffalo, to join the army of the centre.

The result of the operations of the north-west, and the victory on Lake Erie, prepared the way to attempt a more effectual invasion of Canada.

General Dearborn having some time before this retired from the service, General Wilkinson was appointed to succeed him as commander-in-chief, and arrived at Sacket's Harbor on the 20th of August. The chief object of his instructions was the capture of Kingston, although the reduction of Canada, by an attack upon Montreal, was the ulterior object of the campaign.

The forces destined for the accomplishment of these purposes were an army of five thousand, at Fort George; two thousand under General Lewis, at Sacket's Harbor; four thousand at Plattsburg, under the command of General Hampton, which latter, proceeding by the way of Champlain, were to form a junction with the main body; at some place on the river St. Lawrence; and, finally, the victorious troops of General Harrison, which were expected to arrive in season to furnish important assistance.

On the fifth of September, General Armstrong, who had recently been appointed Secretary of War, arrived at Sacket's Harbor, to aid in the above project. The plan of attacking Kingston was now abandoned, and it was determined to proceed immediately to Montreal. Unexpected difficulties, however, occurred, which prevented the execution of the plan, and the American force under Wilkinson retired into winter quarters, at French Mills. The forces of General Hampton, after penetrating the country some distance to join Wilkinson, retired again

to Plattsburg. The forces of General Harrison were not ready to join the expedition, until the troops had gone into winter quarters.

The forces of General Wilkinson were concentrated, previous to embarkation, at Grenadier Island, between Sacket's Harbor and Kingston, 180 miles from Montreal, reckoned by the river. Owing to tempestuous weather, the fleet was detained some days after the troops were on board ; but finally set sail on the 30th.

Unexpected obstacles impeded the progress of the expedition, especially parties of the enemy, which had been stationed at every convenient position on the Canada shore. To disperse these, a body of troops, under command of General Brown was landed, and directed to march in advance of the boats.

On the 11th, the troops and flotilla having arrived at Williamsburg, just as they were about to proceed, a powerful body of the enemy, 2000 in number, was discovered approaching in the rear. Wilkinson, being too much indisposed to take the command, appointed General Boyd to attack them, in which his troops were assisted by the brigades of Generals Covington and Swartwout.

For three hours, the action was bravely sustained by the opposing forces. Both parties in the issue, claimed the victory ; but neither could, in truth, be said to be entitled to it—the British returning to their encampment, and the Americans to their boats. In this engagement, the loss of the latter was 339, of whom 102 were killed. General Covington was mortally wounded, and died two days after. The British loss was 180.

A few days previous to the battle, as General Harrison had not arrived, Wilkinson despatched orders to General Hampton to meet him, with his army, at St. Regis. On the 12th, a communication was returned from Hampton, in which he declined a compliance with above orders, on the ground, that the provisions of Wilkinson were not adequate to the wants of both armies, and that it would be impossible to transport provisions from Plattsburg.

On the receipt of this intelligence, a council of war was summoned by Wilkinson, by which it was decided to abandon the attack on Montreal, and to go into winter quarters at French Mills.

Shortly after, General Hampton, learning that the contemplated expedition against Montreal was abandoned, himself paused in his advance towards Montreal, by the way of Chateaugay, and returned to Plattsburg, where he established his winter quarters. Soon after, his health failing, he resigned his commission, and was succeeded in command by General Izard.

Thus ended a campaign, which gave rise to a dissatisfaction proportioned to the high expectations that had been indulged of

its success. Public opinion was much divided as to the causes of its failure, and as to the parties to whom the blame was properly to be attached.

XI.

CAMPAIGN OF 1814.

Soon after the northern armies had gone into winter quarters, as noticed above, the public attention was directed to a war which the Creek Indians, being instigated thereto by the British government, declared against the United States, and which proved exceedingly sanguinary in its progress, during the year 1813, and until the close of the summer of 1814, when General Jackson, who conducted it, on the part of the Americans, having, in several rencounters, much reduced them, and finally and signally defeated them, in the battle of Tohopeka, or Horse-Shoe-Bend, concluded a treaty with them, August 9th, on conditions advantageous to the United States. Having accomplished this service, General Jackson returned to Tennessee, and was soon after appointed to succeed General Wilkinson in the command of the forces at New Orleans.

The commencement of hostilities by the Creeks, was an attack upon Fort Mimms, on the 30th of August, 1813, by six hundred Indians, who, taking the fort by surprise, massacred three hundred men, women, and children, excepting seventeen, who alone effected their escape.

On the receipt of this disastrous intelligence, two thousand men from Tennessee, under General Jackson, and 500 under General Coffee, immediately marched to the country of the Creeks. In a series of engagements, first at Tallushatches, next at Talladega, and subsequently at Autossee, Emucfau, and other places, the Creeks were defeated, though with no inconsiderable loss, in several instances, to the Americans.

But notwithstanding these repeated defeats and serious losses, the Creeks remained unsubdued. Still determined not to yield, they commenced fortifying the bend of Tallapoosa river, called by them Tohopeka, but by the Americans Horse-Shoe-Bend. Their principal work consisted of a breast-work, from five to eight feet high, across the peninsula, by means of which nearly one hundred acres of land were rendered admirably secure. Through this breast-work a double row of port-holes were so artfully arranged, that whoever assailed it must be exposed to a double and cross fire from the Indians, who lay behind, to the number of one thousand.

Against this fortified refuge of the infatuated Creeks, General Jackson, having gathered up his forces, proceeded on the 24th of March. On the night of the 26th, he encamped within six

miles of the bend. On the 27th, he detached General Coffee, with a competent number of men, to pass the river, at a ford three miles below the bend, for the purpose of preventing the Indians effecting their escape, if inclined, by crossing the river.

With the remainder of his force, General Jackson now advanced to the front of the breastwork, and, at half past ten, planted his artillery on a small eminence, at only a moderate distance.

Affairs being now arranged, the artillery opened a tremendous fire upon the breastwork, while General Coffee, with his force below, continued to advance towards an Indian village, which stood at the extremity of the peninsula. A well-directed fire across the river, which here is but about one hundred yards wide, drove the Indian inhabitants from their houses up to the fortifications.

At length, finding all his arrangements complete, and the favorite moment arrived, General Jackson led on his now animated troops to the charge. For a short time, an obstinate contest was maintained at the breastwork—muzzle to muzzle through the portholes—when the Americans succeeded in gaining the opposite side of the works. A mournful scene of slaughter ensued. In a short time, the Indians were routed, and the whole plain was strewn with the dead. Five hundred and fifty-seven were found, and a large number were drowned in attempting to escape by the river. Three hundred women and children were taken prisoners. The loss of the Americans was twenty-six killed, and one hundred and seven wounded. Eighteen friendly Cherokees were killed, and thirty-six wounded, and five friendly Creeks were killed, and eleven wounded.

This signal defeat of the Creeks put an end to the war. Shortly after, the remnant of the nation sent in their submission. Among these was the prophet and leader, Weatherford. In bold and impressive language, he said—"I am in your power. Do with me what you please. I have done the white people all the harm I could. I have fought them, and fought them bravely. There was a time when I had a choice; I have none now—even hope is ended. Once I could animate my warriors; but I cannot animate the dead. They can no longer hear my voice; their bones are at Tallushatches, Talladega, Emucfau, and Tohopeka. While there was a chance of success, I never supplicated peace; but my people are gone, and I now ask it for my nation and myself."

On the 9th of August, a treaty was made with them by General Jackson. They agreed to yield a portion of their territory as indemnity for the expenses of the war—to allow the opening of roads through their lands—to admit the whites to the free navigation of their rivers—and to take no more bribes from the British.

The spring of 1814 was distinguished for the loss of the American frigate *Essex*, Commodore David Porter, which was captured on the 28th of March, in the bay of Valparaiso, South America, by a superior British force.

Two other naval engagements took place about this time, both of which resulted in favor of the American flag. The first of these was between the United States' sloop of war *Peacock* and the British brig *Epervier*, April 29th; and the second, June 28th, between the sloop *Wasp* and the English brig *Reindeer*. Previously to the action with the *Reindeer*, the *Wasp* captured seven of the enemy's merchantmen.

The action between the first two mentioned vessels lasted but forty-five minutes. During its continuance, the *Epervier* had eight men killed, and fifteen wounded. The *Peacock* escaped with but a single man killed, and with only two wounded. This engagement took place in lat. 27 deg. 47 min. north, and long. 30 deg. 9 min.

The action between the *Wasp* and *Reindeer* was but eighteen minutes; yet the destruction of life was much greater. The latter vessel lost her commander, Captain Manners, and twenty-seven men killed, and forty-two wounded. Twice the British attempted to board the *Wasp*, but were as often repulsed. At length, the American tars boarded the *Reindeer*, and tore down her colors. The loss of the latter, in killed and wounded, was twenty-six. Their prize was so much injured, that, on the following day, she was burned.

General Wilkinson continued encamped with his army at French Mills, whither he had retired in November, 1813, until February, 1814, when by order of the secretary of war, he detached 2000 troops, under General Brown, to protect the Niagara frontier; soon after which, destroying his barracks, he retired with the residue of his forces to Plattsburg.

The British, apprised of this movement, detached a large force, under Colonel Scott, which destroyed the public stores, with the arsenal of the Americans, at Malone, which had belonged to the cantonment of French Mills; but, on hearing of the approach of a large American force, they hastily retreated.

The movements of General Wilkinson indicating a disposition to attempt the invasion of Canada, a detachment of two thousand British, under Major Hancock, was ordered to take post and fortify themselves at La Colle Mill, near the river Sorel, to defeat the above object. With a view of dislodging this party, Wilkinson, at the head of 4000 men, crossed the Canada lines, on the 30th of March. On the following day, he commenced a cannonade upon the works of the enemy; but finding it impracticable to make an impression on this strong building, he retired with his forces, having lost in the affray upwards of 140 in killed and wounded.

The unfortunate issue of this movement, and the equally unfortunate termination of the last campaign, brought General Wilkinson into such discredit with the American public, that, yielding to the general opinion, the administration suspended him from the command, in which he was succeeded by General Izard. At a subsequent day, Wilkinson was tried before a court martial at Troy, by which he was acquitted, but not without hesitation.

XII.

For three months following the above movement, the armies of both nations continued inactive. On the part of the British, the war seemed to languish, the nation at home being occupied with events which were transpiring in Europe of a most extraordinary character. But when, at length, the Emperor of France had abdicated his empire, and Louis XVIII. was seated upon his legitimate throne, England was at liberty to direct against America the immense force which she had employed in her continental wars. Accordingly, at this time, the British forces were augmented by 14,000 veteran troops, which had fought under Wellington; and, at the same time, a strong naval force was despatched to blockade the American coast, and ravage our maritime towns.

It has been already noticed, that General Brown was detached by Wilkinson, with 2000 troops, from French Mills, to proceed to the Niagara frontier. For a time, he stopped at Sacket's Harbor; but, at length, proceeded with his army to Buffalo. By the addition of Towson's artillery, and a corps of volunteers, his force was augmented to 3500 effective men.

On the 2d and 3d of July, he crossed the river Niagara, and took possession of the British Fort Erie, which surrendered without resistance. At a few miles distant, in a strong position, at Chippewa, was intrenched an equal number of British troops, under command of Gen. Riall. On the 4th, Gen. Brown approached these works. On the following day, the two armies met in the open field. The contest was obstinate and bloody; but, at length, the Americans proved victorious, while the British retired with the loss of 514 men. The loss of the Americans was 328.

Immediately after this defeat, Gen. Riall retired to Burlington Heights. Here, Lieut. Gen. Drummond, with a large force, joined him, and, assuming the command, led back the army towards the American camp. On the 25th, the two armies met at Bridgewater, near the cataract of Niagara, and a most desperate engagement ensued, about sunset, and lasted till midnight. At length, the Americans were left in quiet possession of the field.

The battle of Bridgewater, or Niagara, was one of the most bloody conflicts recorded in modern warfare. The British force engaged fell something short of 5000 men, including 1500 militia and Indians. The force of the Americans was by one-third less. The total loss of the British was 878. Generals Drummond and Riall were among the wounded. The Americans lost, in killed, wounded, and missing, 860. Among the killed were eleven officers, and among the wounded, fifty-six. Both Generals Brown and Scott were among the latter. On receiving his wound, Gen. Brown directed Gen. Ripley to assume the command. Unfortunately, the Americans, having no means to remove the British artillery which had been captured, were obliged to leave it on the field. On being apprised of this, the British forthwith returned, and took their artillery again in charge. Owing to this circumstance, the British officers had the hardihood, in their despatches to government, to claim the victory.

Gen. Ripley, finding his numbers too much reduced to withstand a force so greatly his superior, deemed it prudent to return to Fort Erie. On the 4th of August, this fort was invested by Gen. Drummond, with 5000 men; and for 49 days the siege was pressed with great zeal; but, at length, the British general was obliged to retire, without having accomplished his object.

The American force was at this time reduced to 1600 men. On the 5th, Gen. Gaines arrived at Erie from Sacket's Harbor, and took the command. On the 15th, a large British force advanced, in three columns, under Colonels Drummond, Fischer, and Scott, against the fort, but were repulsed with the signal loss of 57 killed, 319 wounded, and 539 missing. Among the killed were Colonels Drummond and Scott.

For some time following this rencontre, both armies were inactive. But, at length, the distressed state of the besieged Americans in the fort attracting the attention of government, a force of five thousand, under Gen. Izard, was ordered from Plattsburg to proceed to their relief.

On the 17th of September, Gen. Brown, who had recovered from his wounds, and had resumed the command of the fort, ordered a sortie, in which the Americans were so successful, that General Drummond was obliged to raise the siege, and to retire with the loss of a great quantity of artillery and ammunition, and 1000 men, which were his number of killed, wounded, and prisoners.

Shortly after, the troops under Gen. Izard arriving, the Americans were able to commence offensive operations. They, therefore, leaving only a moderate garrison in the fort, now advanced towards Chippewa, where Drummond had taken post. Near this place a partial battle occurred on the 20th of October, in which the Americans so far gained the advantage as to cause the enemy to retire.

XIII.

While these events were transpiring in the north, the public attention was irresistibly drawn to the movements of the enemy, on the sea board. About the middle of August, between fifty and sixty British sail arrived in the Chesapeake, with troops destined for the attack of Washington, the capital of the United States. On the 23d of August, six thousand British troops, commanded by Gen. Ross, forced their way to that place, and burnt the capitol, president's house, and executive offices. Having thus accomplished an object highly disgraceful to the British arms, and wantonly burned public buildings, the ornament and pride of the nation, the destruction of which could not hasten the termination of the war—on the 25th they retired, and, by rapid marches, regained their shipping, having lost, during the expedition, nearly one thousand men.

The troops under Gen. Ross were landed at Benedict, on the Patuxent, forty-seven miles from Washington. On the 21st, they moved towards Nottingham, and the following day, reached Marlborough. A British flotilla, commanded by Cockburn, consisting of launches and barges, ascended the river at the same time, keeping on the right flank of the army. The day following, on approaching the American flotilla of Commodore Barney, which had taken refuge high up the river, twelve miles from Washington, some sailors, left on board the flotilla for the purpose, should it be necessary, set fire to it, and fled.

On the arrival of the British army at Bladensburg, six miles from Washington, Gen. Winder, commander of the American forces, chiefly militia collected for the occasion, ordered them to engage the enemy. The principal part of the militia, however, fled, at the opening of the contest. Commodore Barney, with a few eighteen pounders, and about four hundred men, made a gallant resistance; but, being overpowered by numbers, and himself wounded, he and a part of his brave band were compelled to surrender themselves prisoners of war.

From Bladensburg, Gen. Ross urged his march to Washington, where he arrived at about eight o'clock in the evening. Having stationed his main body at the distance of a mile and a half from the capital, he entered the city, at the head of about seven hundred men, soon after which, he issued his orders for the conflagration of the public buildings. With the capitol were consumed its valuable libraries, and all the furniture, and articles of taste and value, in that and in the other buildings. The great bridge across the Potomac was burned, together with an elegant hotel, and other private buildings.

The capture of Washington was followed, September 12th, by

an attack on Baltimore, in which the American forces, militia, and inhabitants of Baltimore, made a gallant defence. Being, however, overpowered by a superior force, they were compelled to retreat; but they fought so valiantly, that the attempt to gain possession of the city was abandoned by the enemy, who, during the night of Tuesday, 13th, retired to their shipping, having lost, among their killed, Gen. Ross, the Commander-in-chief of the British troops.

The British army, after the capture of Washington, having re-embarked on board the fleet in the Patuxent, Admiral Cochrane moved down that river, and proceeded up the Chesapeake. On the morning of the 11th of September, he appeared at the mouth of the Patapsco, fourteen miles from Baltimore, with a fleet of ships of war and transports, amounting to fifty sail.

On the next day, 12th, land forces, to the number of six thousand, were landed at North Point, and, under the command of Gen. Ross, commenced their march towards the city. In anticipation of the landing of the troops, Gen. Stricker was despatched with three thousand two hundred men from Baltimore, to keep the enemy in check.

On the 12th, a battle was fought by the two armies. Early in the engagement, a considerable part of Gen. Stricker's troops retreated in confusion, leaving him scarcely one thousand four hundred men, to whom was opposed the whole body of the enemy. An incessant fire was continued from half past two o'clock, till a little before four, when Gen. Stricker, finding the contest unequal, and that the enemy outflanked him, retreated upon his reserve, which was effected in good order.

The loss of the Americans, in killed and wounded, amounted to one hundred and sixty-three, among whom were some of the most respectable citizens of Baltimore.

The enemy made his appearance, the next morning, in front of the American intrenchments, at a distance of two miles from the city, showing an intention of renewing the attack.

In the meantime, an attack was made on Fort M'Henry, from frigates, bombs, and rocket vessels, which continued through the day, and the greater part of the night, doing, however, but little damage.

In the course of the night of Tuesday, Admiral Cochrane held a communication with the commander of the land forces, and, the enterprise of taking the city being deemed impracticable, the troops were re-embarked; and the next day, the fleet descended the bay, to the great joy of the released inhabitants.

The joy experienced in all parts of the United States, on account of the brave defence of Baltimore, had scarcely subsided, when intelligence was received of the signal success of the Americans at Plattsburg, and on Lake Champlain. The Army of Sir George Prevost, amounting to fourteen thousand men, was compelled by Gen. Macomb to retire from the former, and the enemy's squadron, commanded by Commodore Downie, was captured by Commodore Macdonough on the latter.

Towards the close of the winter of 1814, Gen. Wilkinson, with his army, removed from their winter-quarters at French Mills, and took station at Plattsburg. Gen. Wilkinson leaving the command of the army, Gen. Izard succeeded him at this place. By September, the troops at Plattsburg were diminished, by detachments withdrawn to other stations, to one thousand five hundred men.

In this state of the forces, it was announced that Sir George Prevost, governor-general of Canada, with an army of fourteen thousand men, completely equipped, and accompanied by a numerous artillery, was about making a descent on Plattsburg.

At this time, both the Americans and British had a respectable naval force on Lake Champlain; but that of the latter was considerably the superior, amounting to ninety-five guns, and one thousand and fifty men, while the American squadron carried but eighty-six guns, and eight hundred and twenty-six men.

On the 11th of September, while the American fleet was lying off Plattsburg, the British Squadron was observed bearing down upon it in order for battle.

Commodore Macdonough, ordering his vessels cleared for action, gallantly received the enemy. An engagement ensued, which lasted two hours and twenty minutes. By this time, the enemy was silenced, and one frigate, one brig, and two sloops of war fell into the hands of the Americans. Several British galleys were sunk, and a few others escaped. The loss of the Americans was fifty-two killed, and fifty-eight wounded; of the British, eighty-four killed, and one hundred and ten wounded.

Previous to this eventful day, Sir George Prevost, with his army, arrived in the vicinity of Plattsburg. In anticipation of this event, Gen. Macomb made every preparation, which time and means allowed, and called in to his assistance considerable numbers of militia.

In the sight of these two armies, the rival squadrons commenced their contest. And, as if their engagement had been a preconcerted signal, and as if to raise still higher the solemn grandeur of the scene, Sir George Prevost now led up his forces against the American works, and began throwing upon them shells, balls, and rockets.

At the same time, the Americans opened a severe and destruc-

tive fire from their forts. Before sunset, the temporary batteries of Sir George Prevost were all silenced, and every attempt of the enemy to cross from Plattsburg to the American works was repelled. At nine o'clock, perceiving the attainment of his object impracticable, the British general hastily withdrew his forces, diminished by killed, wounded, and deserted, two thousand five hundred. At the same time, he abandoned vast quantities of military stores, and left the inhabitants of Plattsburg to take care of the sick and wounded of his army, and the "star-spangled banner" to wave in triumph over the waters of Champlain.

We give below a more detailed account of this great victory over the British.



BATTLE OF PLATTSBURGH.

On the 31st of August 1814, the advance of the British army under general Brisbane, entered Champlain, and encamped on the north side of the Great Chazy river, and on the same day major general Mooers ordered out the militia of the counties of Clinton and Essex. The regiment from Clinton county, under lieutenant-colonel Miller, immediately assembled, and on the 2d September took a position on the west road near the village of Chazy; and on the 3d general Wright with such of his brigade as had arrived, occupied a position on the same road about eight miles in advance of Plattsburgh. On the 4th the enemy having brought up his main body to Champlain, took up his line of

march for that place. The rifle corps under lieutenant-colonel Appling, on the lake road, fell back as far as Dead Creek, blocking up the road in such manner as to impede the advance of the enemy as much as possible. The enemy advanced on the 5th within a few miles of lieutenant-colonel Appling's position, and finding it too strong to attack, halted and caused a road to be made west into the Beekmantown road, in which the light brigade under general Powers advanced, and on the morning of the 6th, about seven o'clock, attacked the militia, which had at this time increased to nearly seven hundred, under general Mooers, and a small detachment of regulars under major Wool, about seven miles from Plattsburgh. After the first fire, a considerable part of the militia broke and fled in every direction. Many, however, manfully stood their ground, and, with the small corps of major Wool, bravely contested the ground, against five times their number, falling back gradually and occupying the fences on each side the road, till they arrived within a mile of the town, when they were reinforced by two pieces of artillery, under captain Leonard, and our troops occupying a strong position behind a stone wall, for some time stopped the progress of the enemy: being at length compelled to retire, they contested every inch of ground until they reached the south bank of the Saranac, where the enemy attempted to pursue them but was repulsed with loss. The loss of the British in this skirmish was colonel Wellington and a lieutenant of the third Buffs, and two lieutenants of the fifty-eighth killed, and one captain and one lieutenant of the fifty-eighth light company wounded, together with about one hundred privates killed and wounded; while that on our part did not exceed twenty-five. The corps of riflemen under colonel Appling, and detachment under captain Sproul, fell back from their position at Dead Creek in time to join the militia, &c., just before they entered the village, and fought with their accustomed bravery. The British got possession of that part of the village north of the Saranac about eleven o'clock, but the incessant and well directed fire of our artillery and musketry from the forts and opposite bank compelled them to retire before night beyond the reach of our guns. The enemy arrived towards night with his heavy artillery and baggage on the lake road and crossed the beach, where he met with a warm reception from our row-galleys, and it is believed suffered a heavy loss in killed and wounded. On our side, lieutenant Duncan, of the navy, lost an arm by a rocket, and three or four men were killed by the enemy's artillery. The enemy encamped on the ridge west of the town, his right near the river, and occupying an extent of nearly three miles, his left resting on the lake about a mile north of the village. From the 6th, until the morning of the 11th, an almost continual skirmishing was kept up between the enemy's pickets and our militia stationed on the river; and in the mean time both

armies were busily engaged — ours in strengthening the works of the forts, and that of the enemy in erecting batteries, collecting ladders, bringing up his heavy ordnance, and making other preparations for attacking the fort. On the morning of the 7th, a body of the enemy under captain Noadie, attempted to cross at the upper bridge, about seven miles west of Plattsburg, but were met by captain Vaughan's company of about twenty-five men, and compelled to retire with the loss of two killed and several wounded. On the morning of the 11th, the enemy's fleet came round the head with a light breeze from the north, and attacked ours, which lay at anchor in Cumberland bay, two miles from the shore, east of the fort. The action was long and bloody, but decisive; and the event such as we believe it will always be (except by accident) when our navy contends with any thing like an equal force. The enemy commenced a simultaneous bombardment of our works from seven batteries, from which several hundred shells and rockets were discharged, which did us very little injury, and our artillery had nearly succeeded in silencing all before the contest on the lake was decided. The enemy attempted at the same time to throw his main body in rear of the fort, by crossing the river three miles west of the town, near the scite of Pike's cantonment. He succeeded in crossing, after a brave resistance by the Essex militia and a few of the Vermont volunteers, in all about three hundred and fifty, stationed at that place, who retired back a mile and a half from the river, continually pouring in upon them an incessant fire from behind every tree, until lieutenant Sumpter brought up a piece of artillery to their support, when the enemy commenced a precipitate retreat. The Vermont volunteers, who had hastened to the scene of action on the first alarm, fell upon the enemy's left flank and succeeded in making many prisoners, including three officers. Had the British remained on the south side of the river thirty minutes longer, they must have lost nearly the whole detachment that crossed. Our loss in this affair was five killed and eight or ten wounded, some mortally. Immediately on ascertaining the loss of the fleet, Sir George Prevost ordered preparations to be made for the retreat of the army, and set off himself with a small escort, for Canada, a little after noon. The main body of the enemy, with the artillery and baggage, were taken off in the afternoon and night, and the rear guard, consisting of the light brigade, started at daybreak, and made a precipitate retreat, leaving their wounded and a large quantity of provision, fixed ammunition, shot, shells and other public stores in the different places of deposit about their camp. They were pursued some distance by our troops, and many prisoners taken; but owing to the very heavy and incessant rain, we were compelled to return. The enemy lost, upon land, more than two thousand men in killed, wounded, and prisoners; our loss was 150.



BATTLE OF NEW ORLEANS



BATTLE OF NEW ORLEANS, JANUARY 8TH, 1815.

THE FOLLOWING ACCOUNT OF THE BATTLE OF NEW ORLEANS WAS WRITTEN BY GEN. JACKSON TO THE SECRETARY OF WAR THE DAY AFTER THE VICTORY.

Camp, 4 miles below Orleans, January 9, 1815.

SIR,—During the days of the 6th and 7th, the enemy had been actively employed in making preparations for an attack on my lines. With infinite labor they had succeeded on the night of the 7th in getting their boats across from the lake to the river, by widening and deepening the canal on which they had effected their disembarkation. It had not been in my power to impede these operations by a general attack; added to other reasons, the nature of the troops under my command, mostly militia, rendered it too hazardous to attempt extensive offensive movements in an open country, against a numerous and well disciplined army. Although my forces, as to number, had been increased by the arrival of the Kentucky division, my strength had received very little addition; a small portion only of that detachment being provided with arms. Compelled thus to wait the attack of the enemy, I took every measure to repel it when it should be made, and to defeat the object he had in view. General Morgan with the Orleans contingent, the Louisiana militia and a strong detachment of the Kentucky troops, occupied an intrenched camp on the opposite side of the river, protected by strong batteries on the bank, erected and superintended by commodore Patterson.

In my encampment every thing was ready for action, when, early on the morning of the 8th, the enemy after throwing a heavy shower of bombs and congreve rockets, advanced their columns on my right and left, to storm my intrenchments. I cannot speak sufficiently in praise of the firmness and deliberation with which the whole line received their approach—more could not have been expected from veterans inured to war. For an hour, the fire of the small arms was as incessant and severe as can be imagined. The artillery, too, directed by officers who displayed equal skill and courage, did great execution. Yet the columns of the enemy continued to advance with a firmness which reflects the greatest credit. Twice the column which approached me on my left, was repulsed by the troops of general Carroll, those of general Coffee, and a division of the Kentucky militia, and twice they formed again and renewed the assault. At length, however, cut to pieces, they fled in confusion from the field, leaving it covered with their dead and wounded.

The loss which the enemy sustained on this occasion, cannot

be estimated at less than fifteen hundred in killed, wounded and prisoners. Upwards of three hundred have already been delivered over for burial; and my men are still engaged in picking them up within my lines and carrying them to the point where the enemy are to receive them. This is in addition to the dead and wounded whom the enemy have been enabled to carry from the field, during, and since the action, and to those who have since died of the wounds they received. We have taken about five hundred prisoners, upwards of three hundred of whom are wounded, and a great part of them mortally. My loss has not exceeded, and I believe has not amounted to ten killed and as many wounded. The entire destruction of the enemy's army was now inevitable, had it not been for an unfortunate occurrence which at this moment took place on the other side of the river. Simultaneously with his advance upon my lines, he had thrown over in his boats a considerable force to the other side of the river. This having landed, was hardly enough to advance against the works of general Morgan; and, what is strange and difficult to account for, at the very moment when its entire discomfiture was looked for with a confidence approaching to certainty, the Kentucky reinforcements, in whom so much reliance had been placed, ingloriously fled, drawing after them by their example, the remainder of the forces; and thus yielding to the enemy that most fortunate position. The batteries which had rendered me, for many days, the most import service, though bravely defended, were of course now abandoned; not, however, until the guns had been spiked.

This unfortunate route had totally changed the aspect of affairs. The enemy now occupied a position from which they might annoy us without hazard, and by means of which they might have been enabled to defeat, in a great measure, the effects of our success on this side the river. It became therefore an object of the first consequence to dislodge him as soon as possible. For this object, all the means in my power, which I could with any safety use, were immediately put in preparation. Perhaps, however, it was owing somewhat to another cause that I succeeded even beyond my expectations. In negotiating the terms of a temporary suspension of hostilities to enable the enemy to bury their dead and provide for their wounded, I had required certain propositions to be acceded to as a basis; among which this was one — that although hostilities should cease on *this* side of the river until twelve o'clock of this day, yet it was not to be understood that they should cease on the *other* side; but that no reinforcements should be sent across by *either* army until the expiration of that day. His excellency Maj. Gen. Lambert begged time to consider of these propositions until ten o'clock of to-day, and in the meantime recrossed his troops. I

need not tell you with how much eagerness I immediately regained possession of the position he had thus hastily quitted.

In a subsequent letter, general Jackson states the loss of the enemy to have been much greater than what he had at first computed. Upon information which was believed to be correct, colonel Hayes reported it to have been in total two thousand six hundred, viz: seven hundred killed, fourteen hundred wounded, and five hundred prisoners, including one major, four captains, eleven lieutenants and one ensign, who were among the latter. The American loss, on both sides of the Mississippi was thirteen killed, thirty-nine wounded, and nineteen missing—total seventy-one. Of this number six were killed and seven wounded in the action on the eastern bank of the river, and the residue in a sortie after the action and in the action on the western bank. Among the British officers killed were Sir Edward Pakenham, lieutenant-general and commander in chief, (cut asunder by a cannon ball) major-general Gibbs, colonel Reynier, majors Pringle, Whitaker and Wilkinson. Among their wounded was major-general Keane, severely.

Numerous accounts official as well as unofficial, represent this battle to have been the greatest ever fought on the American continent. For disparity of loss a parallel can scarcely be found in ancient or modern history. So determined were the enemy to carry our works, that many came up to the very muzzles of our guns, and some penetrated into our lines, where they were killed or taken prisoners. Many fell mounting the breast-works; others were slain upon the works; and the ditch in front was, in many places, literally filled with dead and wounded. The roar of artillery from our lines was incessant, while an unintermitted rolling fire was kept up from our muskets. The atmosphere was filled with sheets of fire and volumes of smoke. For an hour and a quarter the enemy obstinately continued the assault; fresh men constantly arriving to fill up their lines thinned by our fire. Their determined perseverance and steady valor, were worthy of a better cause; nor did their troops falter, until almost all the officers who had led them to the attack had fallen. At one time, a body of the enemy succeeded in gaining possession of a bastion on our right with three pieces of cannon in it; but so destructive was our fire, that every man who entered was either killed by our riflemen or disabled before they could spike the guns. Our men soon returned to the charge and regained the bastion. So intent were the enemy in getting over our works, that they pulled off their shoes for the purpose of climbing them; but nearly all who made the attempt were either killed or taken prisoners.

The guns of commodore Patterson's batteries, on the opposite side of the river, did great execution, until the retreat of the Kentucky troops, who had been posted near them. The commodore, finding himself thus deserted, was compelled, with a handful of brave men, to retire, after spiking his guns. The British afterwards burnt the gun carriages, being foiled in their expectations of using the guns to annoy our troops on the opposite shore.

Previous to the battle of the 8th of January, the pirates of Barataria, who had been held in custody, were released by order of general Jackson, upon condition that they would assist in defending the city of New-Orleans. In the battle of that day they proved themselves excellent artillerists, and were, together with a few Frenchmen, successfully employed in serving the pieces. They were afterwards released from any further confinement, having received (at the request of the general assembly of Louisiana) a full pardon from the president of the United States.

Soon after the battle, the enemy sent in a flag of truce, and twenty-four hours were allowed them to remove and bury their dead. In one small spot alone, on the left of our lines, they found three hundred and sixty-eight dead bodies. In the course of the day forty carts and ten boats arrived at New-Orleans, loaded with wounded prisoners, who were put into the barracks, which were converted into temporary hospitals; about one hundred and fifty unwounded prisoners were also put in confinement. To the wounded every attention was paid by the citizens; the nuns of the convent took the glorious lead. They, under the immediate superintendence of the Abbe Douburg, threw open their doors and converted all their houses, separated from their main building, into a hospital, where they themselves, at their own expense, and with their own hands, took care of the sick and wounded. The ladies of New-Orleans were also employed in the same charitable acts of benevolence, as likewise in making clothes for our soldiers. The future historian will delight to contrast the destroying and brilliant virtues of the one sex, with the persevering and not less attracting virtues of the other.

Immediately after their repulse, the enemy commenced active operations for a re-embarkation of their troops. Nearly the whole of the sick and wounded were sent on board their vessels, together with such baggage and munitions of war as could be safely spared. During these operations the enemy kept up a menacing attitude—frequent indications were given of an intention to renew the attack on our lines, and vigorous works of defence were thrown up in front of our camp. The rear of their army retired first, while they displayed a numerous body of men to the view of our troops, and at night their fires seemed rather to increase than diminish. They had erected batteries to cover their retreat, in

advantageous positions, from their original encampment, to the bayou through which they entered lake Borgne. The cannon placed on these batteries could have raked a pursuing army in every direction, and any attempt to storm them would have been attended with very great slaughter. Having made the necessary arrangements the whole British army precipitately retreated on night of the 18th of January; an account of which was officially given by Gen. Jackson to the Secretary of War.

The enemy's loss after decampment, and on ship-board, (including about three hundred drowned while passing to and from their shipping,) amount to four thousand eight hundred.

A number of British deserters and prisoners have stated their loss to have exceeded five thousand; and it is worthy of remark, that the British official account of the action of the 8th of January represents it as very considerably surpassing the statement given by general Jackson.

The American loss in the several engagements, was fifty-five killed, one hundred and eighty-five wounded, and ninety-three missing—total, three hundred and thirty-three. Of our forces actually engaged (including marines as well as land troops) the following is a correct statement:—In the action of the 23th of December, three thousand two hundred and eighty-two; 1st of January, three thousand nine hundred and sixty-one; 8th of January, four thousand six hundred and ninety-eight. The enemy's force previous to the 6th of January, was nine thousand; after that time it was increased to twelve thousand.

The news of the victory at New Orleans spread with haste through the United States, and soon after was followed by the still more welcome tidings of a treaty of peace, which was signed at Ghent, on the 24th of December, 1814. On the 17th of February, this treaty was ratified by the president and senate, and thus ended the so called "war of 1812."

FOURTH PERIOD.

BATTLES OF THE MEXICAN WAR.

CAUSES OF THE WAR.

Long before the commencement of the recent war with Mexico, various unhappy causes had hindered a perfect national friendship between that country and the United States. The different revolutions which have distracted her since the establishment of nationality, together with the fact that the views and policy of each ruler were generally the very opposite of those of his predecessor, rendered it almost impossible for a neighboring republic, whose foreign diplomacy had usually been stationary, to maintain strict amity. The war with Spain having drained the treasury, it became necessary to replenish it by some extraordinary means ; and the various rulers, as they successfully attained to power, understanding little of the laws of nations, and being always accustomed to raise money by seizure or impressment, now exercised their appropriate code to the capture of the property and vessels of other nations. From the relative situation of the United States, and the state of her commerce in the Gulf, she was particularly exposed to these outrages. Our citizens engaged in lawful commerce were imprisoned, their vessels seized, and our flags insulted in her ports. If money was wanted, the lawless seizure and confiscation of our merchant vessels and their cargoes were a ready resource ; and if, to accomplish their purposes, it became necessary to imprison the owners, captains, or crews, it was done. In rapid succession rulers succeeded rulers, but still there was no change in the system of depredation. The government of the United States made repeated reclamations on behalf of its citizens, but these were answered by the perpetration of new outrages. Promises of redress made by Mexico in the most solemn forms were postponed or evaded. The files and records of the Department of State contain conclusive proofs of numerous lawless acts, perpetrated upon the property and persons of our citizens by Mexico, and of wanton insults to our national flag. The interposition of our government to obtain redress was again and again invoked, under circumstances which no nation ought to disregard.

BATTLES OF PALO ALTO AND RESACA DE LA PALMA.

The following account of these battles is from an eye witness, and describes in a very clear and concise manner the active manœuvring which formed an essential feature at Palo Alto.

At Palo Alto, the view before the battle was beautiful in the extreme. The Mexican lines were of great extent, and were drawn up, with much skill, in terrible array. They outnumbered us more than four to one; nevertheless, there was no hesitation on our part; our little army was formed into line at once, and continued to advance in the order of battle with ten pieces of artillery, till we drew the fire from their battery of fourteen guns. We then halted, corrected our alignment with the precision of a dress parade, and took our part in the ball. The enemy made increasing efforts to outflank us, but without success; every such attempt uniformly ended in their being obliged to give ground. Whenever their demonstrations threatened our left, that wing of the army half-wheeled to the right, by regiments, and marched by its left flank upon a point, slightly beyond the enemy's extreme right. You will readily perceive, that this diagonal movement enabled us always to pour in a destructive raking fire, scathing their whole line. When they attempted our right, that wing half-wheeled by regiments to the left, and marched, by its right flank, upon a point beyond their left. These movements would leave a large interval in our centre, and then the Mexican cavalry would prepare to charge through; but they never could succeed, for a simple "By companies right and left into line," re-formed our whole force in the same order as at first, but on ground considerably in advance of its former position. The consequence was that they would recede and try the same manœuvres over again.

In the mean time, clouds of dense smoke obscured the light of day, and hung over the scene in huge festoons like a funeral pall; while the thunder of the death-dealing charge, the roar of cannon, and continued volley of musketry, deafened the ears and excited the imagination. Round, grape, and canister came hustling through the air, crushing skulls, mutilating limbs, and mangling bodies, till the whole plain was covered with the dying and the dead. For four hours we stood against the tremendous odds arrayed against us, gradually forcing them to yield ground, till darkness put an end to the slaughter. By the lurid light of a burning prairie, we collected the wounded and buried the dead; then, fatigued and supperless, we sank in repose, upon the bare earth, with the full assurance of a hard day's fight on the morrow. Nor were we disappointed. Daylight found the enemy retiring to a strong position in the chapparel of Resaca de la Palma. Here, screened by the bushes, the Mexicans waited our

approach. General Taylor caused a detail of skirmishers, of whom I was one, to constitute the advance. We drew their fire at about 3 o'clock P. M., and maintained our ground till our regiments came up. The fifth and eighth infantry with Captain May's squadron of dragoons, charged the enemy's battery, and carried nine brass pieces, when the enemy began to give way. We assisted them with the points of our bayonets, and chased them into the river, where many hundreds of them were drowned.

In this first day's battle the Mexicans fought with much determination, and, notwithstanding their repulse, remained almost within sight of the American army during the night. General Arista, in his despatch to the Mexican minister of war, written on the field of battle, claims as it as a victory.

After the battle, the first care of General Taylor was to visit the wounded, and see that every comfort was supplied. The constant and well-directed energies of the medical department left but little for him to do; every one, whether officer or soldier, having been attended with unwavering care and watchfulness. The troops having partaken of their meal, order was given to get the command under arms. The general then summoned a council of war, composed of the heads of different commands, in all thirteen, exclusive of myself. After returning thanks for their support and bravery during the day, he called on each to give his opinion as to the proper course to be pursued on the morrow. It was then ascertained that but four out of thirteen were in favor of advancing. Of the others, some voted to intrench where they were, and await the volunteers, and others to retire at once to Point Isabel; the general merely remarked, "I will be at Fort Brown before night, if I live." Lieutenant Rigley, who was entitled to a vote in the council, was, at the time, in attendance on the lamented Ringgold, and, therefore, had no vote in the matter; but as he galloped up, to the battery, on returning from his visit to the major, some one asked—"Ridgely, were you at the council?" "No," he replied, "I did not know that one had been called, but I hope old Zack will go ahead, and bring the matter to close quarters."

On the following morning the army recommenced its march for the Rio Grande, which General Taylor denominated Fort Brown, in honor of its lamented defender. When within about four miles of it, they again encountered the enemy encamped on chosen ground, considered impregnable. It was denominated the pass of *Resaca de la Palma*.

Here they were not only concealed and defended by dense rows of chapparel, prickly pear, &c., but had also placed their artillery in such a position as completely to sweep the narrow road which wound along the dry bed, or gorge, which gave name to the pass. Seeing this, General Taylor ordered the supply train to be strongly parked, and leaving four pieces of artillery to defend

them, he pushed toward the enemy. Captain McCall was sent forward to ascertain their position, and was soon engaged in a severe skirmish. The Americans advanced, and the action became general. The enemy were sure of victory, and fought with a determination rarely evinced by Mexican soldiery. As the battle advanced it became evident that victory could not be completed by the Americans, without capturing the enemy's batteries. This was a dangerous undertaking; but the commander intrusted it to Captain May. That gallant officer rode to the front of his men, and the next moment they were sweeping towards the Mexicans. He charged the batteries, drove away the cannoneers, captured the guns, and dispersed the Tampico veterans, who several times attempted their rescue. In this assault, the Americans lost Lieutenant Inge, and seven men killed and a few wounded. The Mexican loss was heavy, and their general La Vega, was captured by Captain May.

This bold charge decided the fate of the battle. The Mexicans fled in disorder through the ravines and chapparel, and were closely pursued by the Americans. Captain Ker's dragoons and Duncan's artillery led the pursuit, and captured a large number of the fugitives.

The American force actually engaged in this battle was about seventeen hundred men. They lost three officers, and thirty-one men killed and seventy-one wounded. The loss of the enemy was very great—they left two hundred on the battle-field. Eight pieces of artillery, several standards, a large amount of baggage and public property, together with many prisoners, were the rewards of the victors.

A writer previously quoted, thus relates several incidents not fully described in the official report:

At two o'clock P. M., we found the enemy drawn up in great force, occupying a ravine which our road crossed; with thick chapparel or thorny bushes on either side before it reached the ravine, and a pond of water on either side where it crossed the ravine, constituting a defile. They were seven thousand strong; we fifty-four weaker than on the previous day. The general ordered an immediate attack by all the troops, except the first brigade, which was kept in reserve; and soon the rattling fire of musketry, mingled with the heavy sound of artillery, announced the commencement of the action. The enemy had chosen his position, which he considered impregnable—was vastly superior to us in numbers, and had ten pieces of artillery in the defile, which swept the road with grape, and which was absolutely necessary for us to take before they could be beaten. These pieces were flanked on either side by a regiment of brave veteran troops, from Tampico, and we were obliged to stand an awful shower of grape and bullet before a charge could reach them. The battle had lasted some two hours with great fury on both sides,

and many heroic deeds had been done, but no serious impression made, when General Taylor sent for Captain May of the second dragoons, and told him he must take that battery with his squadron of dragoons, if he lost every man. May instantly placed himself at the head of his men, and setting off at full speed, with cheers and shouts, dashed into the defile, where he was greeted with an overwhelming discharge of grape and bullets, which nearly annihilated his first and second platoons; but he was seen, unhurt, darting like lightning through this murderous hail-storm, and, in a second, he and his men drove away or cut to pieces the artillerists.

The speed of his horses was so great, however, that they passed through the battery, and were halted in the rear. There, turning, he charged back, and was just in time to rescue a Mexican general officer, who would not leave his guns, and was parrying the strokes of one of his men. The officer handed his sword to May, announced himself as General La Vega, and gave his parole. May turned him over to an officer, and galloping back to General Taylor, reported that he had captured the enemy's battery, and the gallant General La Vega, bravely defending it, whose sword he had the honor to present to his commanding officer. The general was extremely gratified, and felt no doubt that a blow had been given from which it would be difficult for the enemy to recover. . . . Colonel Belknap, leading his regiment into the thickest of the fight, seized a Mexican standard, and waving it over his head, dashed on in front of his men, until his horse stumbled over some dead bodies and threw him. Being a heavy man, he was helped on his horse by a soldier, who in the act received a ball through his lungs, and at the same moment a shot carried away the Mexican flag, leaving but the handle with the colonel. He dashed ahead with that, however, and his regiment carried every thing before it. At this moment the Mexicans gave way entirely, and, throwing down their arms, fled in every direction, leaving all their stores, munitions of war, arms, standards, &c. The killed, wounded, and prisoners, including those who were drowned in the Rio Grande, do not fall short of eighteen hundred—so that the enemy's loss in two days amounts to at least two thousand men, something more than the number we had in our army.

When Lieutenant Magruder introduced General La Vega to General Taylor, the latter expressed his deep regret that such a misfortune should have happened to an officer whose character he so highly esteemed, and returned to him his sword which he had so bravely won.

Another officer thus writes :

On reaching the point of the road where May would have been discovered by the enemy, he was stopped by Ridgely, who told him that the enemy had just loaded their pieces, and if he charged

them, he would be swept away, adding, "Stop, till I draw their fire." He then deliberately fired each gun. So terrible was the effect of the grape that the Mexicans poured their fire upon his pieces, and then May charged like a bullet, drove off their cannoneers, took La Vega prisoner and retreated. Here Lieutenant Inge, a gallant soldier, was killed just behind May and afterwards stripped. Lieutenant Sackett had his horse shot under him, and was precipitated into the pond, but rose again and escaped, covered with mud and water. The Squadron suffered very much. I am sure May feels grateful to Ridgely for his cool judgment and timely advice. Had he charged on the battery, loaded with grape as it was, I do not believe he would have saved a man.

The battle-fields of the 8th and 9th are thus described by eye-witnesses :

Our troops were resting on the battle-ground. Alas ! what a sad picture presented itself. Around were lying heaps of dead, dying, and disabled men. The sigh, the groan, the shriek of agony filled the air, whilst the eye could not rest upon a spot, but it met with a head, a leg, an arm, a body cut off by the waist, or the more fortunate dead who had received their death-wound from the rifle or musket.

CAPTURE OF VERA CRUZ.

The following from general Scott describes the plan of the siege :

BEFORE VERA CRUZ, March 23, 1847.

Sir,—Yesterday, seven of our ten-inch mortars being in battery, and the labors for planting the remainder of our heavy metal being in progress, I addressed, at 2 o'clock, P. M., a summons to the governor of Vera Cruz, and within two hours limited by the bearer of the flag, received the governor's answer. Copies of the two papers (marked respectively, A and B) are herewith enclosed.

It will be perceived that the governor, who it turns out is commander of both places, chose, against the plain terms of the summons, to suppose me to have demanded the surrender of the castle and of the city—when, in fact, from the non-arrival of our heavy metal—principally mortars—I was in no condition to threaten the former.

On the return of the flag with that reply, I at once ordered the seven mortars, in battery, to open upon the city. In a short time the smaller vessels of Commodore Perry's squadron—two steamers and five schooners—according to previous arrangement with him, approached the city within about a mile and an eighth, whence, being partially covered from the castle—an essential condition to their safety—they also opened a brisk fire upon

the city. This has been continued, uninterruptedly, by the mortars, only with a few intermissions, by the vessels, up to 9 o'clock this morning, when the commodore, very properly, called them off a position too daringly assumed.

Our three remaining mortars are now (12 o'clock, M.) in battery, and the whole ten in activity. To-morrow, early, if the city should continue obstinate, batteries Nos. 4 and 5 will be ready to add their fire: No. 4, consisting of four twenty-four pounders and two eight-inch Paixhan guns, and No. 5, (naval battery,) of three thirty-two pounders and eight-inch Paixhans—the guns, officers, and sailors landed from the squadron—our friends of the navy being unremitting in their zealous co-operation, in every mode and form.

So far, we know that our fire upon the city has been highly effective—particularly from the batteries of ten-inch mortars, planted at about eight hundred yards from the city. Including the preparation and defence of the batteries, from the beginning—now many days—and notwithstanding the heavy fire of the enemy from the city and castle, we have only had four or five men wounded, and one officer and one man killed, in or near the trenches. That officer was captain John R. Vincent, of the United States third artillery, one of the most talented, accomplished, and effective members of the army, and was highly distinguished in the brilliant operations at Monterey. He fell, last evening, in the trenches, where he was on duty as field and commanding officer, universally regretted. I have just attended his honored remains to a soldier's grave, in full view of the enemy and within reach of his guns.

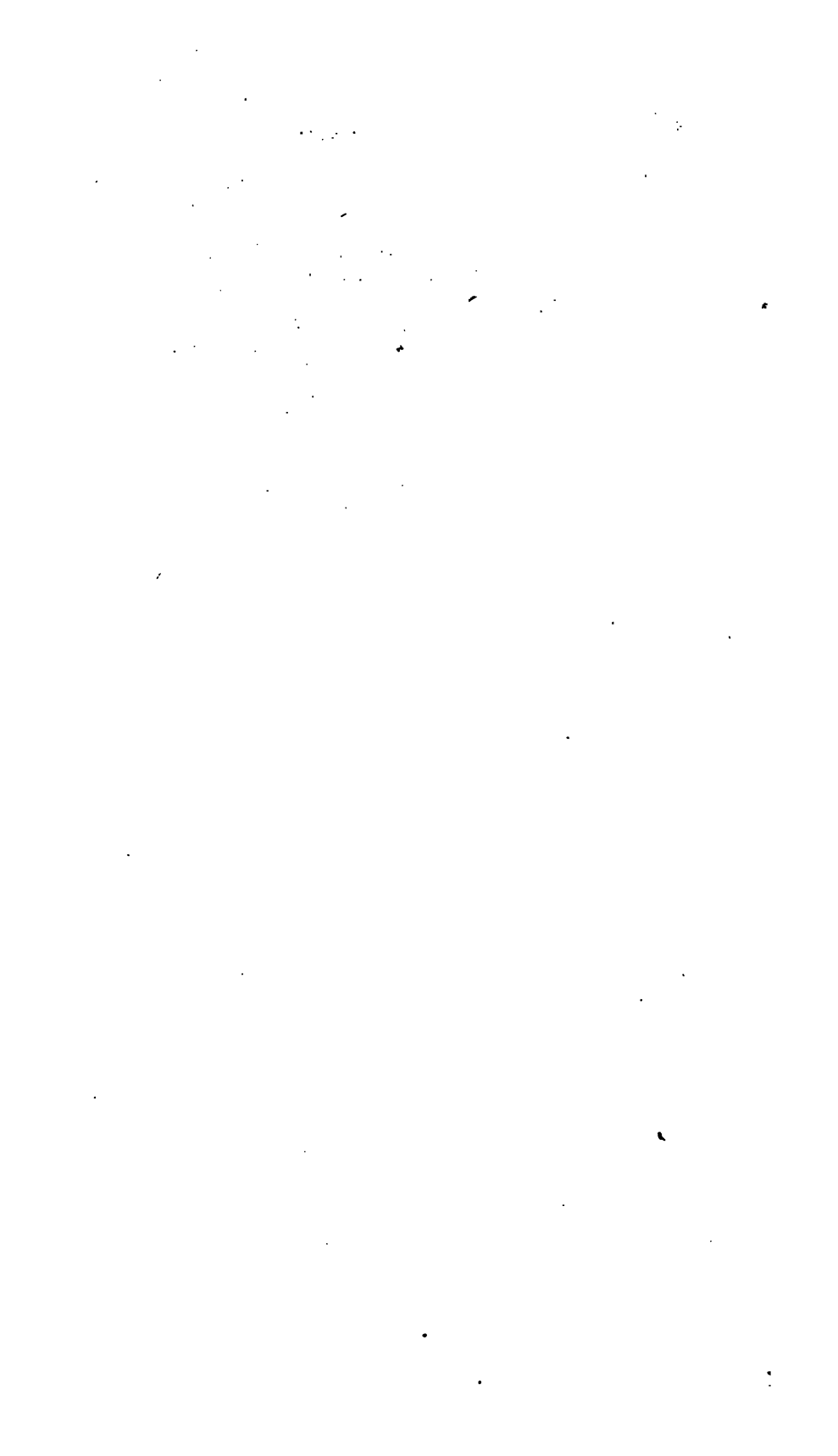
Thirteen of the long-needed mortars—leaving twenty-seven, besides heavy guns, behind—have arrived, and two of them landed. A heavy norther then set (at meridian) which stopped that operation, and also the landing of shells. Hence the fire of our mortar batteries has been slackened, since 2 o'clock to-day, and cannot be invigorated until we shall again have a smooth sea. In the mean time I shall leave this report open for journalizing events that may occur up to the departure of the steamship-of-war *Princeton*, with commodore Conner, who, I learn, expects to leave the anchorage of *Sacrificios*, for the United States, the 25th instant.

March 24.—The storm having subsided in the night, we commenced this forenoon, as soon as the sea became a little smooth, to land shot, shells, and mortars.

The naval battery, No. 5, was opened, with great activity, under captain Aulick, the second in rank of the squadron, at about 10 A. M. His fire was continued to 2 o'clock, P. M., a little before he was relieved by captain Mayo, who landed with a fresh supply of ammunition—captain A. having exhausted the supply he had brought with him. He lost four sailors, killed, and had one officer, lieutenant Baldwin, slightly hurt.



BOMBARDMENT OF VERA CRUZ.



The mortar batteries, Nos. 1, 2, and 3, have fired but languidly during the day, for want of shells, which are now going out from the beach.

The two reports of colonel Bankhead, chief of artillery, both of this date, copies of which I enclose, give the incidents of these three batteries.

Battery No. 4, which will mount four twenty-four pounders, and two eight-inch Paixhan guns, has been much delayed in the hands of the indefatigable engineers by the norther, that filled up the work with sand nearly as fast as it could be opened by the half-blinded laborers. It will, however, doubtless be in full activity early to-morrow morning.

March 25.—The Princeton being about to start for Philadelphia, I have but a moment to continue this report.

All the batteries, Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, are in awful activity this morning. The effect is, no doubt, very great, and I think the city cannot hold out beyond to-day. To-morrow morning many of the new mortars will be in a position to add their fire, when, or after the delay of some twelve hours, if no proposition to surrender should be received, I shall organize parties for carrying the city by assault. So far the defence has been spirited and obstinate.

Six days after this, Gen. Scott says :—

VERA CRUZ, March 29, 1847.

Sir,—The flag, of the United States of America floats triumphantly over the walls of this city and the castle of St. Juan de Ulloa.

Our troops have garrisoned both since 10 o'clock. It is now noon. Brigadier-general Worth is in command of the two places.

Articles of capitulation were signed and exchanged at a late hour night before last.

An eye witness of the scene says :—

The surrender of the city took place on the 29th. The Americans were drawn up in two lines facing each other, and stretching over a plain for more than a mile. The Mexicans left the city at 10 o'clock to the sound of their national music, passed between the American lines, and, after laying down their arms and colors, marched for the interior. General Worth had been appointed to superintend the evacuation ; and as soon as it was accomplished, a portion of his division entered the city, to the sound of national music and in full military array. Soon after the flag of the United States was erected over the Plaza, and saluted by the guns of the city and squadron. General Scott took up his head-quarters at the place, and general Worth was appointed military governor.

The city of Vera Cruz was found to be in a state of the most disgusting filth, and considerable time was spent in restoring it to

cleanliness and health. The Americans remained there about a fortnight in order to recruit themselves after the fatigues of the siege; and at the end of that time, general Scott prepared for a march into the interior

BATTLE OF BUENA VISTA.

Major Coffee, and general Taylor's staff, gave the following interesting incidents of Buena Vista, during a private conversation while in the United States as a bearer of the general's despatches:

General Taylor had fallen in love, at first sight, with the position at which he finally made his stand, at Buena Vista. His movements towards Agua Nueva was merely a *ruse* to decoy the enemy into the field which he had selected for his battleground. As soon as McCulloch's men, who were invaluable as scouts, informed him of Santa Anna's approach to Agua Nueva, general Taylor quietly broke up his camp, and fell back to his first love, Buena Vista. This position was admirably chosen. It was at the foot of a mountain, or rather of two mountains, between which ran the road through a narrow valley. On his right there was a deep ravine, which protected that flank more effectually than half a dozen regiments could have done. The left of general Taylor's line rested on the base of a mountain. The road in the centre was intrenched and defended by a strong battery. In front the ground was uneven—broken into hills and deep ravines—well adapted to the mode of fighting suited to our volunteers, and by its peculiarities supplying the disadvantage of a great inferiority of numbers.

On the 21st, the enemy were descried approaching over the distant hills. At their appearance the volunteers raised a great shout, and gave three tremendous cheers. Their engineers and officers were seen flying over the field, and dragging their cannon about to get them into position, but the nature of the ground did not favor the undertaking, and it was late in the day before the big guns began to open.

The enemy had with them thirty-two cannon, mostly of large calibre. Their fire, though kept up very briskly, and apparently well manned, did so little execution in our ranks, that it was not considered necessary to answer it. Our cannon were therefore silent the whole of the 21st. Eight or ten killed and wounded was the extent of the casualties sustained by our army on the 21st. During the next day an officer approached our lines with a flag of truce, and requested to be shown to general Taylor. The brave old man was sitting quietly on his white charger, with his leg over the pommel of the saddle, watching the movements of the enemy, when the Mexican officer was presented. In a

very courteous and graceful manner the officer stated that "he had been sent by his excellency general Santa Anna, to his excellency general Taylor, to inquire, in the most respectful manner, what he (general Taylor) was waiting for?" From the silence of general Taylor's batteries, and the quiet manner in which he received Santa Anna's terrific cannonading, the Mexican supposed he was asking a very proper question; to which, however, old Rough and Ready gave the pertinent reply that "he was only waiting for general Santa Anna to surrender." The Mexican returned hastily to his lines. This message proved to be a *ruse* to ascertain where general Taylor's position was; for after the return of the Mexican officer to his own ranks, the whole Mexican battery seemed to open upon general Taylor's position, and the balls flew over and about him like hail. Utterly indifferent to the perils of his situation, there sat the old chief on his conspicuous white horse, peering through his spy-glass at the long lines of Mexican troops that could be seen at a great distance on the march. The persuasion of his aids could not induce him to abandon his favorite point of observation, nor to give up his old white horse.

All the officers on our side in this hard-fought battle, distinguished themselves. The details of the battle were confined to general Wool, who nobly justified the confidence of his commander and brother veteran, by the most active, zealous, efficient, and gallant conduct. Throughout the whole action he was constantly engaged in the disposition of our forces, and in rallying them to the onset. It was a miracle he escaped the thick-flying balls which thinned the ranks he was marshaling. There was but one complaint made against him, and that was that he exposed himself too much. Brigadier-general Lane also showed himself to be a brave and capable officer. Although wounded early in the action, he kept his horse until it closed, and never for a moment left his post.

On the night of the 22d, both armies drew off from the field of battle. Our men were engaged all night in bringing in the wounded and taking care of them, the Mexicans as well as our own men. There were, however, but few of our men found on the field wounded. They were, to use Santa Anna's significant words in his despatch, "all dead," the cowardly miscreants having killed every man whom they overtook, wounded and helpless on the field. With like turpitude and treachery, they left their dead unburied and their wounded uncared for on the field where they fell. The latter were carried to Saltillo in our own wagons; the former were buried by the alcalde, under the orders of general Taylor.

A number of officers were taken prisoners, and an exchange was effected, by which all our men in their hands were released. Cassius M. Clay's party are understood now to be in the city of Mexico.

Among the killed and wounded of the Mexicans are three general officers, and twenty colonels and commanders of battalions. General Minion, it appears, has not as yet realized the brilliant career of which he considered his capture of major Bolland an earnest. He was ordered by Santa Anna to attack and carry Satillo during the engagement at Buena Vista. With this object he made a demonstration against the town with two thousand cavalry. Lieutenant Shover, with sixty men and two small pieces of artillery, went out to meet the valiant general, and at one discharge of his cannon sent him and his large force to the right-about in double quick time.



The following remarks upon the character of the battle, and merits of general Taylor's victory, are from the able editor of the *New Orleans Delta*, (March 24.)

The list of the killed and wounded on the American side, at the bloody battle of Buena Vista, is a mournful proof of the ferocity and violence which characterized this severe conflict, and a sad testimonial of the chivalry and fearlessness of American soldiery. Sixty-five commissioned officers killed and wounded in so small an army, exhibits a proportion and result unparalleled in the history of war. Estimating general Taylor's force at five thousand rank and file, and allowing one commissioned officer to twenty men, the startling conclusion is arrived at that our loss in this sanguinary engagement, of commissioned officers, amounted to one-fourth of the number in the field. If the loss of the rank

and file were in like proportion to that of officers, it would exceed one thousand two hundred. In view of such terrible results as these, Santa Anna approached as near the truth, melancholy as it is, as he ever did, when he said that both armies were cut up. The loss of the Mexicans can scarcely be exaggerated, when it is put down at four thousand. Santa Anna must have had with him at least seventeen thousand men. When we last heard from him, previous to the battle, he was at San Fernando, waiting for all the various detachments of his army to assemble, preparatory to his attack. This was on the 17th, and the attack was fixed for the 21st. Now, as Santa Anna knew exactly Taylor's situation and force, he would certainly not attack him until he had collected all his available troops. and these we know, allowing for desertion and for a *corps de reserve*, could not have fallen short of seventeen thousand, as he left San Luis with twenty-three thousand. If, then, with such a force as this, after a two days' hard fight, and after inflicting upon general Taylor so heavy a loss, he is compelled to withdraw twenty miles in the rear, the conclusion is inevitably that he has sustained a prodigious loss, and is irretrievably beaten.

But the principal cause of victory—that which combined and modified all others—was the character and conduct of the American general. Few men, besides himself, could have conquered at Buena Vista; none other could have inspired the troops with so much devotion and enthusiasm. Talents for the choice of position, for the arrangement of the line of battle, and for the conduct of the engagement; coolness and intrepidity while exposing his person whenever it became necessary; together with the determination to conquer, which inspired through him, all his men, marked his conduct on that day, and secured him, to future history, as the Hero of Angostura.

BATTLE OF SIERRA GORDO.

The following description of the Mexican general's position, and of the preparatory arrangements of the American army, are from the pen of a gentleman who was with general Scott during the whole affair of Sierra Gordo:—

The road from Vera Cruz, as it passes the Plan del Rio, which is a wide, rocky bed of a once large stream, is commanded by a series of high cliffs, rising one above the other, and extending several miles, and all well fortified. The road then debouches to the right, and, curving around the ridge, passes over a high cliff, which is completely enfiladed by forts and batteries. This ridge is the commencement of the Terra Templada, the upper or mountainous country. The high and rocky ravines of the river protected the right flank of the position, and a series of abrupt and

apparently impassable mountains and ridges covered their left. Between these points, running a distance of two or three miles, a succession of strongly fortified forts bristled at every turn, and seemed to defy all bravery and skill. The Sierra Gordo commanded the road on a gentle declination, like a glacis, nearly a mile—an approach in that direction was impossible. A front attack must have terminated in the almost entire annihilation of our army. But the enemy expected such an attack, confiding in the desperate valor of our men, and believing that it was impossible to turn their position to the right or left. General Scott, however, with the eye of a skilful general, perceived the trap set for him, and determined to avoid it. He, therefore, had a road cut to the right, so as to escape the front fire from the Sierra, and turn his position on the left flank. This movement was made known to the enemy by a deserter from our camp, and consequently a large increase of force under General Vega was sent to the forts on their left. General Scott, to cover his flank movements, on the 17th of April, ordered forward general Twiggs against the fort on the steep ascent, in front and a little to the left of the Sierra. Colonel Harney commanded this expedition, and, at the head of the rifles and some detachments of infantry and artillery, carried his position under a heavy fire of grape and musketry. Having secured this position in front and near the enemy's strongest fortifications, and having by incredible labor elevated one of our large guns to the top of the fort, General Scott prepared to follow up his advantages. A demonstration was made from this position against another strong fort in the rear, and near the Sierra, but the enemy were considered too strong, and the undertaking was abandoned. A like demonstration was made by the enemy."

On the morning of the 18th, the army moved to the attack in columns, and their success was rapid and decisive. General Twigg's division assaulted the enemy's left, where he had remained during the night, and, after a slight resistance, carried the breastwork at the point of the bayonet, and completely routed its defenders. Meanwhile, Pillow's brigade, accompanied by general Shields, moved rapidly along the Jalapa road, and took up a position to intercept the retreat of the Mexicans. At the same time general Worth pushed forward toward the left, to aid the movement of Twiggs. The rout was total. Three thousand men, with field and other officers, surrendered, and an immense amount of small arms, ordnance and batteries, were also captured. About six thousand Mexicans gained the rear of the Americans on the Jalapa road, but were closely pursued. The Americans, lost two hundred and fifty in killed and wounded—among the latter, general Shields; the loss of the Mexicans, exclusive of prisoners, was about one hundred more.

According to the account of the captured officers, Santa Anna

had in his lines at least eight thousand men, and without the intrenchments about six thousand, of which a third was cavalry. The army was composed of the best soldiers in Mexico. The infantry who had fought so bravely at Buena Vista, and all the regular artillerymen of the republic including several naval officers, were present. Some of the officers whom general Scott released at the capitulation of Vera Cruz without extorting the parole on account of their gallantry, were found among the killed and wounded. Of the latter was a gallant young officer named Halzinger, a German by birth, who excited the admiration of our army during the bombardment of Vera Cruz, by seizing a flag which had been cut down by our balls and holding it in his right hand until a staff could be procured. He had been released by general Scott without a parole, and was found on the field of Sierra Gordo dangerously wounded. In addition to the loss of the enemy in killed and taken they lost about thirty pieces of brass cannon, mostly of large calibre, manufactured at the royal foundry of Seville. A large quantity of fixed ammunition, of a very superior quality, together with the private baggage and money-chest of Santa Anna, containing twenty thousand dollars, was also captured.



BATTLE OF SIERRA GORDO.

On the same day that the battle of Sierra Gordo was fought, a portion of the American Gulf squadron, under, Commodore Perry, captured the town of Tuspan on the Gulf.

On the 19th, the city of Jalapa was captured by a detachment under general Twiggs; and on the 22d, general Worth entered the town of Perote. Both these cities were taken without opposition; and in the latter were found immense stores of small arms, ammunition, and large guns of the city and castle.

On the 17th, the advance reached San Augustin, a village about twelve miles south of the city, and was joined next day by the second division. General Worth advanced a division to take possession of a hacienda, near the fortification of San Antonio, and preparatory to assaulting the latter place. The village was captured, but in a reconnoissance that ensued, a heavy discharge from a Mexican battery killed captain Thornton, and wounded one or two others. An artillery squadron and a battalion of infantry continued to hover round the redoubt in hope of making a successful attack that afternoon; but, towards evening, a heavy rain ensued, and general Scott thought proper to withdraw them. All night, the hostile batteries frowned in gloomy silence upon this detachment; had they opened with activity it might have been forced to retire, or perhaps cut to pieces.

During the night, the divisions of Pillow and Twiggs marched toward the strong work of Contreras, so as to take up a position for an assault on the following morning. The fatigue they encountered was appalling. The country was enveloped in thick darkness, rain poured down in streams, while the wind tossed and whirled like the ground in an earthquake. Now they mounted over clumps and ridges, formed by rocks of lava, and entangled with dense brushwood; and now plunged into some swollen stream, whose rushing waters destroyed all order of march. Dimly, in the distance, could be observed the flame of camp fires, struggling through the wind and rain; while the rumbling of heavy cannon, the tramp of horses, the clashing of guns and bayonets, and the thunderings of the tempests, rolled strangely through the sullen night.

At eight next morning, the Mexican batteries re-opened upon the hacienda of San Antonio, where general Worth was posted. The heavy explosions shook the air, while houses and bulwarks sunk in thundering masses beneath the showers of shot and shells. The balls whistled through the quiet lanes, raking them from end to end, and tearing up the ground in deep ridges. Large bombs burst in the air, throwing slugs, shot, and fragments among the Americans, with terrible effect. Yet these gallant troops, disdaining to yield, stationed themselves behind walls and buildings, and, though all around was ruin and confusion, calmly prepared for active duty. Soon after, the division of Pillow and Twiggs pushed toward Contreras, which, after a fatiguing march, they reached about 1 o'clock, P. M. General P. F. Smith was then ordered to march up in face of the enemy's works, and colonel Riley to move rapidly toward the right ~~and~~ the main road, and

cut off any Mexican reinforcement that might present itself. Smith rushed forward amid a tremendous fire, and gained a position for his artillery; every gun on both sides now opened, and the terrific explosions shook the ground for miles around, and rolled in deafening echoes along the mountain ridges of Mexico. But the few guns of the American advanced battery were soon silenced; and general Pierce marched to the relief of general Smith. About this time, large reinforcements of the enemy approached Contreras, and general Cadwallader pushed forward to reinforce Riley. Again the batteries broke forth in rapid discharges, but neither army yielded one inch of ground. About 4 o'clock, a commanding figure swept along the American line, while his piercing eyes glanced over the field of action. "General Scott!" rang from rank to rank, and a shout, wild and enthusiastic, poured forth his welcome. Perceiving the immense strength of the Mexicans, the commander-in-chief ordered general Shields to reinforce Riley and Cadwalader, and also strengthened the army in front of the enemy. The whole field was now covered with soldiers, marching and wheeling in line.

For six hours the dreadful work continued, when darkness closed round the armies, and the firing grew less and less rapid, then died away and all was still. The disappointed Americans, who, unacquainted with the enemy's strength, had calculated on a speedy victory, lay down on the rugged ground without blankets, and amid rushing floods of rain that, collecting among the ridges, rushed and foamed like mountains torrents. About 8 o'clock general Scott retired to San Angustin, and was followed by Twiggs and Pillows, at 11.

Early the next morning, generals Scott and Worth again set out for Contreras. Some cannonading, and rapid discharge of musketry, was heard in that direction, and, soon after, captain Mason galloped up to the commander-in-chief with the tidings, that Smith had carried the whole line of fortifications at Contreras. That enterprising general had planned and executed the assault and suffered comparatively small loss. He captured fifteen hundred prisoners, including Generals Salas, Blanco, Garcia and Mendoza, an immense amount of ammunition and camp equipage, and fifteen artillery pieces. Seven hundred of the enemy were killed, and a still larger number wounded; while the route of the fugitives was strewed with muskets and other arms. Upon receiving this intelligence, General Scott sent General Worth to make a demonstration on San Antonio, while he, with a portion of the army, should get in its rear.

On reaching San Pablo, another action commenced, and at almost the same instant, the roar of Worth's cannon was heard at Churubusco. The flower of the American army was now engaged with that of Mexico, and the battle was one of those rarely witnessed on the continent. Thousands of musketry rat-

bled in uninterrupted succession, while, now and then, the deep cannon would break in with sullen roar, that rolled trembling away in the distance. On one part of the field the commanding form of Scott was sweeping from rank to rank, animating and superintending his legions, heedless of the thick storm that was whizzing like hail around him; in another, the loud voice of Worth and Twiggs were shouting their heroes on the stubborn foe.—Dark around that scene hung dense columns of smoke as though hiding man's dark character from the gaze of day.

In two hours, all the works were in possession of the Americans, and the enemy in full flight for the city. General Worth pursued them almost to the gates of the capital.

The next morning, a portion of the American army entered the town of Chepultepec, without opposition and soon after flags arrived from General Santa Anna, proposing suspension of hostilities. Negotiations took place, and the following commissioners were appointed to arrange a temporary suspension. The following is the result of their deliberations.

The whole force of the Mexicans, in these engagements, is estimated to have been about thirty-two thousand men. They lost between five and six thousand, including, by their own account thirteen generals, and forty five pieces of cannon. The Americans numbered seven thousand, of whom eleven hundred were killed and wounded. Soon after the engagement, Santa Anna published a manifesto, stating the causes of the defeat, throwing all the blame upon a particular officer, and calling on his countrymen still to maintain their opposition to the invasion of the Americans.

POSITION OF SCOTT'S ARMY BEFORE THE CITY OF MEXICO.

On the 18th of August Scott had by a difficult and skilful movement, abandoned the road by which he came from Puebla, and on which Santa Anna had planted some of his strongest defences, and had thrown his army around the shores of the lake, upon the great western road leading from the Pacific to the capital. Here at San Augustine nine miles from Mexico General Scott established his head quarters. The city was surrounded by two exterior lines of fortifications of great strength, and defended by Santa Anna, at the head of a well-appointed army, 30,000 strong.

Immediately in front of our army, lay the fortified village of San Antonio. To the left, was the hill of Contreras, fortified by batteries. Nearer to the city, on the road by which our troops were approaching, lay the village of Churubusco. These points were all strongly garrisoned, and defended by sixty-one pieces of artillery. The 17th, 18th, and 19th of August had been passed in laborious efforts to acquire a full knowledge of the enemy's

position, and lay the foundations for an effective attack. The 19th especially had been passed in severe exertions of the officers and men. Several skirmishes had taken place, and an action of three hours with the force on the hill of Contreras had been terminated without any marked result. The troops had worked and suffered prodigiously. To add to the discouragement of the day, the rain began to fall, and the night closed chill, wet, and dreary. It was passed in suffering and deep anxiety. The troops got no rest, but stood crowded together, drenched and benumbed, waiting for daylight. The officers met at the quarters of General Scott.

There was despondency and apprehension. "But," says an eye-witness, "the confidence of all was restored by the great coolness and steadiness of the commander-in-chief. As the officers came in from the field, wet, fatigued, and weary, he made them all partake of a cheerful repast. His bearing was most noble. It exalted the spirits of all present.

BATTLE OF CONTRERAS.

The attack on Contreras had been admirably planned by the commander-in-chief, and on the morning of the 20th, at three o'clock, it was assailed in front and rear. The position was defended by General Valencia, commanding 7,000 of the veteran troops of Mexico. But so effectively had our forces been disposed, and so sudden and vehement was the attack, that the enemy was driven headlong from his intrenchments in an incredibly short space of time. In this engagement, 4,500 of American troops drove 7,000 Mexicans out of their strongholds, and pursued them with immense slaughter. Twenty-two pieces of artillery were captured, besides seven hundred mules, and an immense quantity of small arms, shot, shells and ammunition. But the chief brilliancy of the achievement consisted in the superior skill and strategy displayed by General Scott in planning and executing it. The loss of the Americans was but sixty killed and wounded.

FALL OF SAN ANTONIO.

The storming of Contreras enabled our troops to turn the enemy's rear at San Antonio, and opened the way to the village of Churubusco, five miles distant. The garrison of San Antonio, instead of awaiting an attack, immediately evacuated their position, after witnessing the capture of Contreras, and hastened to fall back upon Churubusco.

GREAT BATTLE OF CHURUBUSCO.

The scattered forces of the enemy, driven from Contreras and San Antonio, had concentrated themselves upon Churubusco, in

aid of that strong and important position. Other troops had also flocked to it, and Santa Anna's entire disposable force was intrenched in and near that village. At least twenty-five thousand Mexicans, strongly posted, here awaited the onset of our army. As the American troops moved to the attack, a most terrific fire was opened upon them both by infantry and artillery, along the whole extended line of the enemy. Torrents of flame rolled down from the enemy's fortifications, ravaging our ranks with a deluge of slaughter. For more than three hours was the great tide of battle successfully resisted by the enemy. Their murderous fire was, however, returned by our troops with unflagging energy and desperate resolution. The attack was at length pressed with such impetuosity that the Mexican left began to waver. Lieutenant-colonel Scott, heading two regiments of infantry, here made a furious assault upon the strongest of the enemy's works (the *tete-dupont*), and carried it at the point of the bayonet, after a most obstinate conflict. The main body of the Mexican infantry soon after gave way before the assailants.

Still one portion of the field was contested with fierce determination. But all resistance finally succumbed before the irresistible valor of our troops. As the last stronghold of the enemy yielded, General Scott, who had been wounded in the action by a grape-shot, made his appearance in that quarter, and was greeted with deafening cheers by his brave troops, now triumphant at all points. This memorable battle began soon after noon, and did not end till sunset. The loss of the Americans in killed, wounded, and missing, was 1,056. That of the Mexicans was 4,000 in killed and wounded, and 2,637 prisoners. It is conceded by the best military authorities, that this decisive victory was chiefly owing to the prompt and masterly arrangements of the commander-in-chief, both before and during the engagement, and that to him, therefore, belongs the principal credit of this most glorious achievement of the American arms. But besides the military skill exhibited on the whole of this bloody day, ending with this terrible battle, General Scott displayed all the fire and heroic temper of his youth. The contagion of his example of lofty courage and impetuous enthusiasm, spread through and fired the whole army. Never did General Scott's noble appearance and conduct produce a greater influence upon his men than on this memorable day. Mounted on a fiery charger, in the midst of his conquering troops, directing in person all the brilliant evolutions of the various divisions of the army, dashing from column to column, amid the pitiless peltings of the iron hail, and the ringing shouts of the victors, and dispatching his orders in all directions with unparalleled celerity.



BATTLE OF CHEPULTEPEC.

Santa Anna had now stationed himself with his remaining forces on the outskirts of the city, at or near the hill of Chapultepec. This hill was very strongly fortified, and commanded the city, as well as several of its principal approaches. Its sides were craggy and precipitous, excepting the ascent from the city. On its summit stood a stone fortress of immense size and strength, called the castle. At its foot were strong defences. Among them was the "King's Mill" (*Molino, del Rey*), a large stone building with thick and high walls, and towers at the ends. About 400 yards distant stood another thick-walled stone building, called the *Casa de Mata*. Strongly posted at and about these two points, and between them lay the army of Santa Anna, 14,000 strong. General Scott discerning that the "King's Mill" was employed as a foundry for the purpose of casting cannon, to be used in the defence of the city, determined to attack and destroy it, and break up the enemy's position preparatory to the storming of Chapultepec. The assault was intrusted to General Worth, who accomplished it in the most gallant manner on the 8th of September, but not without frightful loss. The positions at the King's Mill and at *Casa de Mata* were defended with obstinate bravery, and only yielded at length to the desperate valor of our troops, who poured in under a hideous tempest of bullets and sulphur, and carried the works.

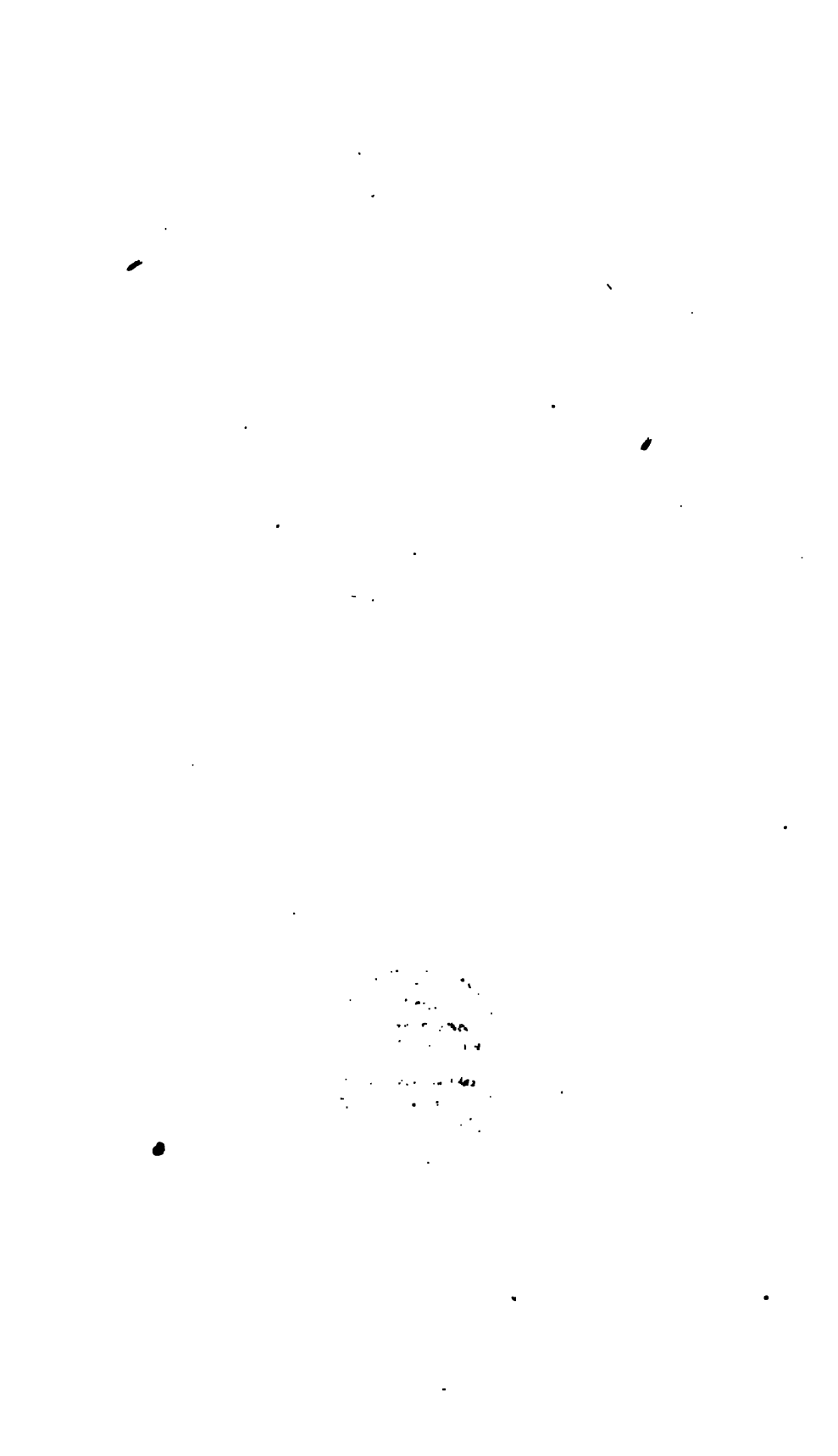
On the morning of the 12th of September, General Scott, having placed his heavy batteries, opened them upon the castle

that crowned the summit of the hill of Chepultepec, whither the enemy had retreated, and where he was now posted in full force. With the capture of this strong and commanding position, the city was destined to fall. The entire day was occupied in a tremendous cannonade on both sides. The spectacle was fearful. Our heavy ordnance thundered their point-blank shot through the walls of the castle with amazing force and precision. The mortars and howitzers belched their destructive missiles upon all parts of the fortress. Bombs burst in fury within the works. Every shell tore up the ramparts. The fire of the enemy was scarcely less furious. Night closed the scene. Early in the day of the 13th the signal for an assault by two detachments already detailed for the service, was given, and our brave troops moved forward to the attack.

The first redoubt was carried amid loud acclamations. Pressing steadily on, our troops overcome the most determined resistance, dislodged the enemy at every point, and swept up the hill with prodigious energy, in the face of a desolating fire. Surrounding the castle on its crest, was a deep ditch, and stone walls 12 to 15 feet in height. Scalding-ladders were planted, and over these formidable ramparts, under a sheet of flame, our men poured with fierce intrepidity, filling the castle and overwhelming its defenders, who steadily and fiercely resisted to the last. The stars and stripes were flung from its huge walls, while long-continued shouts and cheers announced its fall, and the entrance of the American army into the regal Halls of the Mentezumas. In the language of General-Scott, "No scene could have been more animating and glorious." Yet was the victory dearly purchased, by a further loss of our gallant corps of 800 killed and wounded.



SCOTT'S ENTRY INTO THE CITY OF MEXICO.



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